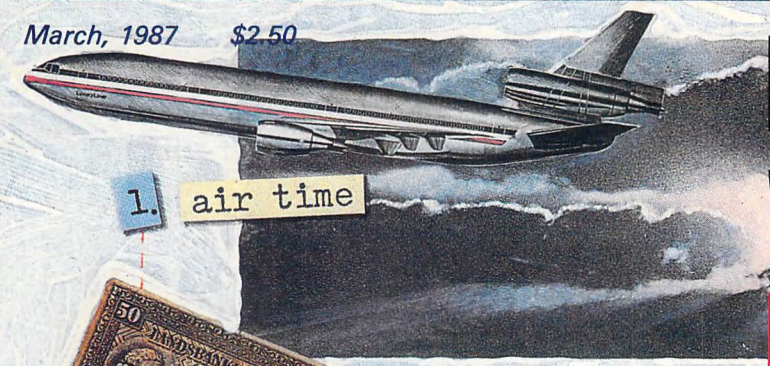
A COMPUSERVE PUBLICATION PRINTED MONTHLY/ONLINE DAILY

ONLINE TODAY

THE COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS MAGAZINE

March, 1987 $2.50



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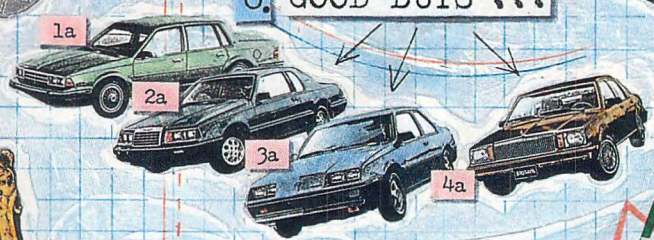

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ELECTRONIC EDITION

Online Today Electronic Edition provides daily-updated computer and information industry news, coverage of CompuServe services, commentary, computer product reviews and more.

GO OLT **A GO-Page Directory** *of the day's top computer industry news and a summary of key OLT page numbers.*

OLT-160 **The Monitor Daily News** *main menu.*

OLT-90 **Today's Computer and Information Industry News.**

OLT-20 **The Current Week's Monitor News.**

OLT-130 **Behind the Screens℠.** *Computer and information industry news, rumor and gossip.*

OLT-50 **CompuServe Update** *main menu. Lists all CompuServe news departments.*

OLT-70 **What's New on CompuServe.**

OLT-80 **CompuServe Community News.**

OLT-120 **Forum Conference Schedules.**

OLT-140 **Beginner's Corner.**

OLT-600 **Resident Memory.**

OLT-3500 **Online with Charles Bowen.**

OLT-3700 **Uploads.** *A bi-weekly column summarizing new files in forum data libraries.*

OLT-1000 **Computer Events Calendar.**

OLT-2000 **OLT Special Reports.**

OLT-3000 **Computer Legislation Database.**

OLT-30 **Letters to the Editor** *main menu.*

OLT-200 **Electronic Edition Reviews** *main menu.*

OLT-220 **Hardware Reviews** *main menu.*

OLT-230 **Software Reviews** *main menu.*

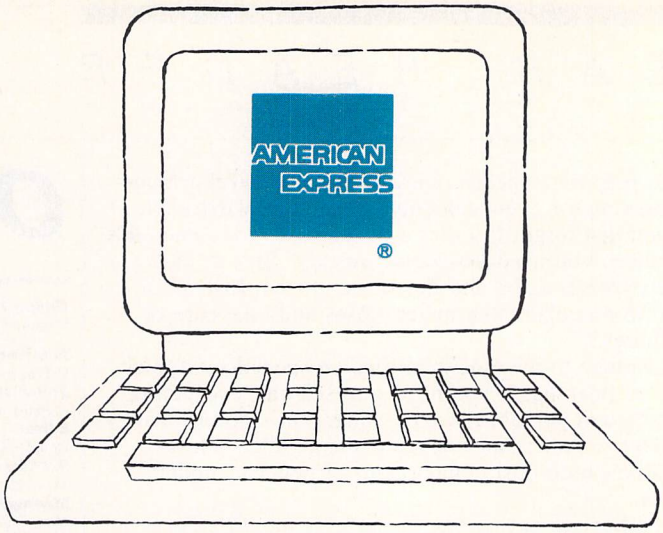
OLT-240 **Book Reviews** *main menu.*

OLT-250 **New Product Announcements** *main menu.*

EBB-11 **Instructions** *on use of the Electronic Bounce Back reader service system.*

EBB-160 **Online Today Display Ads** *main menu.*

EBB-70 **Shopper's Guide.**



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DEAR READER

Maybe you've been asked to prepare a speech overnight, make travel arrangements for an urgent business meeting, or even suddenly become knowledgeable about fine wines. Or perhaps you just forgot to order a dozen roses for someone's special day. Whatever the situation, you need assistance quickly. But, as luck would have it, the stores, library, travel agent and florist are closed. Instead of feeling frustrated, you could go to one place that never closes and take care of any of these needs in a few minutes.

At that place, you also can arrange to have news stories on specialized topics clipped for you even while you're sleeping. If you need to research "everything that's been published" about a certain person, place or thing, that's no problem; the IQuest service and the Academic American Encyclopedia handle such requests all the time. And you can even do cost comparisons of new car models before you visit a car showroom.

The CompuServe Information Service is that one place. This month's cover story, beginning on page 12, is a treasury of tips for saving time, working smarter and learning more. You'll find practical advice on how to use various databases and forums to do just about anything better.

* * *

Also in this issue, read about Einstein (page 30), a new service designed especially for students doing research for class projects and term papers. Through Einstein, they can search many of the databases offered through the more powerful IQuest service and the cost is less.

This month IQuest is offering two weeks of free searches on the PsycINFO database. To learn more about this database that covers such subjects as motivation and personality theories, read "Probing the Psyche" on page 34. For more details on the free search offer, see page 11.

Douglas G. Branstetter
Editor

ONLINE® TODAY

***Online Today*®, March 1987**
Volume 6 Number 3

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ADVERTISING SALES
Associate Publisher
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Guidelines to Requesting Information Through EBB

Electronic Bounce Back

Electronic Bounce Back is *Online Today*'s electronic version of the traditional reader inquiry card. To request additional information about products or services described in *Online Today*, simply access CompuServe and type GO EBB at any prompt.

CompuServe Page EBB-1
ONLINE TODAY ADVERTISERS
ELECTRONIC BOUNCE BACK (EBB)

1. EBB Instructions
2. Online Today Display Ads
3. Print Edition Reviews
4. Shopper's Guide Classifieds

Display Ads

GO EBB-160. Inquiries to this section will be followed by a brief description of the *Online Today* ad. To request additional printed information, simply enter your name and address at the prompts. EBB will add your User ID number and electronically forward your request to the appropriate advertiser(s). The names, addresses and User ID numbers will also be forwarded via US Mail at the end of each month.

CompuServe Page EBB-160
ONLINE TODAY ADVERTISERS/EBB

1. March 1987 Advertisers
2. Feb. 1987 Advertisers
3. Jan. 1987 Advertisers

Editorial Articles/Reviews

At the end of each electronic version product review, you'll be asked if you wish to request further information through the Electronic Bounce Back system. A "yes" response will let the system prompt you for your name, address and other information so that your request can be forwarded to the appropriate company. If you respond "no," the system will return you to the previous menu.

To request information about products reviewed in the print edition, go to page EBB-280 and select the appropriate listing, such as March Hardware Reviews. At the next menu, select the product you're interested in. If you answer "yes" at the question prompt, the EBB system will prompt you for the necessary information.

Requests to these sections will be stored and forwarded by traditional mail once each month.

CompuServe Page EBB-280
REVIEW LISTINGS/PRINT EDITION

1. March Hardware Listings
2. March Software Listings
3. March New Product Listings

Shopper's Guide

GO EBB-70. This is *Online Today*'s classified section and is designed to enable readers to easily scan areas of interest.

To request information from Shopper's Guide advertisers, send messages via CompuServe EasyPlex or use traditional methods of communication.

CompuServe Page EBB-70
SHOPPER'S GUIDE

1. About Shopper's Guide
2. Rates and Information
3. Software
4. Services
5. Hardware
6. General

***Note:**
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Each issue of *Online Today* is filled with information which CompuServe subscribers benefit from having close at hand for reference.

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LETTERS

Artificial Intelligence

I have a comment on the article "Company Crosses Language Barrier" (November 1986, p. 15) about a company that uses language specialists to translate electronic mail online.

As the publisher of an artificial intelligence newsletter, I think that the services provided by such companies will be in less demand in the near future due to artificial intelligence. Language translation products currently are being pioneered and tested in artificial intelligence laboratories throughout the world.

I would be happy to send more information on these products to anyone who sends a self-addressed stamped envelope to me at *AI Today*, 104 Frame Rd., Elkview, WV 25071.

Roger C. Thibault
Elkview, W.Va.

Computer Assembly

The story about assembled automobiles ("Behind the Screens" in *Online Today Electronic Edition*) does, in fact, have a direct corollary in the computer business. There is a chain of two stores in Silicon Valley that offers a unique course. Students pay $700 and are given space at a workbench, a soldering iron, heat sinks, diagonal cutters and other equipment to build their own computer clones.

Jim Forbes, senior editor
PC Week
Belmont, Calif.

Book Review

I was impressed with the review of *Desktop Publishing From A to Z* by Michael Naver. Is it possible to order this book online? I could not find it in the bookstores.

Judith White
Sydney, Nova Scotia

Editor's Note: To order the book Desktop Publishing from A to Z , *contact Osborne/McGraw-Hill, 2600 10th St., Berkeley, CA 94710; 415/548-2805.*

NAIC Forum

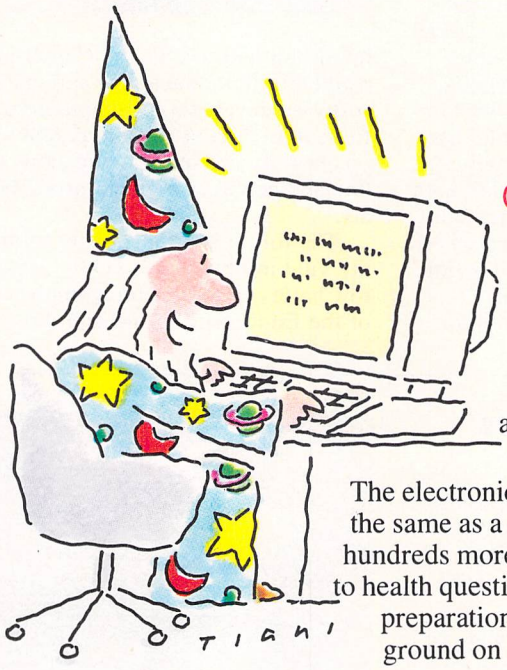
I enjoyed the excellent article about the NAIC Forum (*Online Today Electronic Edition*, "Community News"). It captures the goals of the forum quite well.

I have one comment. The use of the phrase "long-term speculation" seems inappropriate. Speculation, to me, means a risky investment; if the investment was risky, I would want to be rewarded handsomely and quickly (in less than three months). I think the word "investment" would be more appropriate.

I realize there are differences of opinion on this, but I think my usage of the term is closer to common usage.

Bob Kalischer
NAIC Forum Administrator
Columbus, Ohio

Encyclopedia Electronica!



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Software Center Helps Handicapped

Parents of handicapped and learning-disabled children have a new place to go for some high-tech learning aids. From reading programs for speech-impaired third-graders to survival skills software for the severely mentally retarded to sign language software, The Special Education Software Center can help.

Located in Columbus, Ohio, the Center is the result of a joint project of the US Department of Education's Office of Special Education, SRI International and LINC Resources Inc.

By dialing a toll-free number, parents and teachers can tap into a special education software database. Center personnel, who are software experts, work individually with each caller to ascertain such details as students' ages, reading levels, handicapping conditions and the kind of curriculum or skill area being requested. The Center then conducts a customized database search and mails, free of charge, a detailed listing of suggested computer programs.

Although this personal attention is important and useful, the Center also wanted to link educators, parents and software developers. CompuServe's Education Forum permits parents and teachers to ask specific questions online and get answers from professionals.

The forum is an ideal way to distribute vital information quickly, according to Charles Lynd, forum administrator of the Education Forum and director of information services for LINC Resources. Special online conferences allow parents and teachers to discuss specific subjects of concern, such as rights for the handicapped and available technology.

"This is exciting because the service is straightforward. All they have to do is ask," says Lynd, adding that the federal government has experts online in the Education Forum to answer parents' questions directly.

The potential videotex provides is extraordinary. "This technology doesn't just open doors, it knocks down the walls and lets publishers, developers and consumers of educational products talk to each other about their common concerns. On CompuServe, they're all in the same room," says Victor Fuchs, LINC's president and CEO.

To contact the Special Education Software Center, call 800/327-5462 (nationwide) or 614/263-5462 (in Ohio). To reach it online, type GO EDFORUM at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

—Cathryn Conroy

CompuServe Enters Science Museums

Information at your fingertips is a powerful sensation—one that many museum visitors are experiencing at the new CompuServe Science Museum Computer Network exhibit.

Featured at more than a dozen science and technology museums in North America, including Columbus; Philadelphia; Washington, D.C.; and Chicago, the exhibit is designed to portray the wonders of the information age.

The free-standing exhibit is powered by a personal computer and telephone communications software. Specially designed function keys allow visitors to log onto CompuServe, read the latest news bulletins from the Associated Press, check into weather radar or try a trivia game.

In addition to being able to access virtually the entire CompuServe system and its hundreds of databases at no charge, visitors can view or take part in live communications with others using similar computer exhibits installed at other science museums around the country.

"This is an excellent way to introduce CompuServe to the public," says Douglas Branstetter, coordinator of the project. "A lot of museum visitors are children, and we view this as an investment in the future. It's a good way to introduce CompuServe to our future subscriber base."

Introducing CompuServe: *Interactive kiosk*

Reactions to the exhibit have been positive, according to the museum officials. Most people are amazed that such services exist today.

"The CompuServe exhibit shows people how to use a computer to gather information and to entertain themselves. It's fun to use," says Julie Graber, executive assistant to the president at Columbus' Center of Science and Industry. "When they see news and weather on the screen, they see things they understand, not just a lot of programming and graphics. Visitors realize they can use a computer as an information tool and not need a technical background."

The exhibit has the added bonus of helping museum administrators perform their jobs easier and more effectively with such features as electronic mail and bulletin boards that easily enable them to exchange ideas and information among other museums in the system.

IRS Uses High-Tech Tool to Track Taxes

As April 15 looms just weeks away, the "death and taxes" adage returns to mind. It would appear, however, that millions of Americans are questioning whether they really do have to pay those taxes. Question no longer. The IRS has a high-tech tool to track down the 13.2 million delinquent taxpayers owing more than $35 billion in back taxes.

The Automated Collection System, developed by GC Services Corp. of Houston, Texas, uses state-of-the-art telecommunications and computer technology to identify, track and collect overdue taxes, replacing the painstakingly slow, manual operation Uncle Sam previously used to collect his due.

The system seems to be working. In 1985, the first full year ACS was in operation, the IRS collected $2.3 billion in back taxes—about $700 million more than it had collected the last year of manual processing.

"Prior to ACS, IRS employees collected less than $200 an hour in back taxes. With ACS, they are collecting more than $700 an hour—a rather dramatic improvement," says William I. Davis, executive vice president of GC Services.

The system does more than just serve as a storage tank for information. It actually works with the collectors, identifying high priority cases, scheduling follow-up calls and then reminding operators, accurately and rapidly dialing telephone numbers of delinquent taxpayers and even filing returns for those citizens who neglected this task. The computer also will initiate the process for placing a lien or levy against a taxpayer.

"Under the old system, millions of cases were handled manually, leaving plenty of opportunity for things to fall through the cracks. That doesn't happen now," says Davis.

While it may be hard for some Americans to believe, the IRS wants to establish and maintain good "customer" relations. When things were done manually, this was often difficult because collection agents didn't always have complete information available and errors occurred more easily. ACS will make operations more effective and enable agents to deal more fairly with taxpayers.

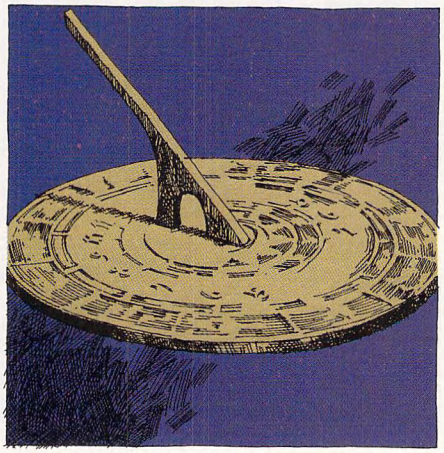
The ACS system cost the IRS $115 million, but officials say they expect to recoup these development and equipment costs within four years.

For information, contact GC Services Corp., 1612 K St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006; 202/293-5971.

Exhibit Preserves Pre-Computing Era

Common sense might lead you to think that the Boston Computer Museum has few items on display that are more than a few decades old. After all, there aren't many 16th century Amigas floating around. But the museum's latest exhibit proves that computing machinery has been around for longer than many of us suspect.

The exhibit, "On One Hand," is dedicated to the tools people used for manipulating numbers before the PC was even a gleam in IBM's big blue eye. For instance, when Mesopotamian shepherds found number-crunching hard on their digits, they turned to pebbles as a way to keep track of their flocks. These pebbles are on display, as is a pocket sundial, a 1920s era "Addiator" and a primitive device that is undoubtedly familiar to thousands of *Online Today* readers—the now completely obsolete slide rule. On your way out of the exhibit you'll see a collection of more familiar devices—pocket calculators.



More details on the exhibit are available from the Boston Computer Museum; 617/423-6758. And, please, don't touch the "Addiators."

—John Edwards

Newsletter Instructs Business Professionals

Those in the public relations and communications professions have a unique source to learn about the latest ways computers, online information services and satellite technology are being used in their fields. *Hi-Tech Alert for the Professional Communicator* is an electronic and print newsletter published by Communication Research Associates.

It is available monthly in the printed version ($98 annual subscription) and biweekly in the electronic version on NewsNet (online charges of $24/hour). A capsulized edition is published monthly on CompuServe and is available in Data Library 9 of the Public Relations and Marketing Forum.

"More and more, effective public relations and corporate communications are being performed by people taking advantage of the new computer technology. But a majority of professional communicators are not taking advantage of it because they don't know how to use it," says Michael R. Naver, editor of *Hi-Tech Alert* and a public relations expert. "This newsletter is one way to educate professionals on how to improve productivity and become involved with computer and satellite technology."

The world of high-tech services and products is constantly changing, and it can be confusing to novices. Focusing on computer applications as they affect public relations, the newsletter's bulletins include such topics as personal computer uses, online information services, office automation, word processing, desktop publishing, electronic mail, high-tech media relations, paperless employee communication, video news releases, corporate video, satellite conferencing and more.

Naver is confident the future of public relations is in automation. "There is no question in my mind that there will be a gradual but steady movement toward automation," he predicts.

For information or a subscription, contact *Hi-Tech Alert for the Professional Communicator*, Communication Research Associates, 10606 Mantz Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20903; 301/445-3230.

—Cathryn Conroy

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This exceptional offer is provided by *PsycINFO, BRS* and *IQuest* and is available exclusively to subscribers of the CompuServe Information Service.

To access PsycINFO, type GO IQUEST at any prompt.

* Search/retrieval charges for PsycINFO are waived March 16-29. Base connect charges are in effect.

M O N I T O R

Terminal Tests Eyesight

Over the years, *Online Today* (both print and electronic editions) has run hundreds of stories about video displays and eyesight. Do displays harm users' vision or do they have absolutely no effect on eyesight? We can find you an army of ophthalmologists, optometrists and part-time voyeurs who will proclaim their undying allegiance to either side of the issue.

So it is with pride and a sense of relief that we present Samuel Sokol, a New England Medical Center ophthalmology professor who claims that video displays are not only great to look at, but also are capable of testing your baby's eyesight.

Speaking before a recent meeting of the New England Ophthalmological Society, Professor Sokol said he uses a checkerboard pattern on a video screen to test the eyesight of children under three.

"You set the baby down in front of the television set and tape a wire to the back of the child's head," said Sokol, who demonstrated his system at the meeting.

Like an eye chart, the screen's checkerboards are displayed in graduated sizes. The wire on the child's head is connected to a computer to measure electrical signals from the cerebral cortex. The computer can detect and signal whether the child can see the checks.

Sokol claimed that his system is superior to the current method of testing baby eyesight—showing children objects and measuring their reaction. Sokol noted that the present test was "hit and miss," while his system, which uses only subconscious responses from the child, is much more reliable.

Now, you're probably not going to attempt this at home, but we just thought it would be nice to bring you some different news about video displays.

Further details are available from Professor Sokol at the New England Medical Center, 617/956-5000.

—John Edwards

Compare Car Costs Without Leaving Home

Ford and Buick are toying with the idea of setting up electronic car shopping kiosks.

Both companies plan to install terminals outside selected car dealerships. By interacting with the terminals, customers could browse 24 hours a day through current models, options and prices. Dealers would be expected to provide follow-up calls within a day or two.

Electronic car shopping is hardly a new concept to CompuServe users. Ford, Buick and Chevrolet are represented in The Electronic Mall. In addition to providing information on current models, each automaker offers special services to users.

For example, the Chevy Showroom (GO CHV) features a bulletin board where users can swap Chevrolet cars and parts. *Buick Magazine* (GO BU) has files on motorsports, car maintenance and auto safety. The Ford Electronic Showroom (GO FMC) includes an online opinion poll and a database that will help you find the Ford or Lincoln-Mercury/Merkur dealer nearest to your home.

New Video Monitor Projects Big Picture

Imagine playing computer football, sailing through the heavens with *Flight Simulator* or calculating a spreadsheet on a screen 50 feet in diameter. Just the thing to silence those people who talk about video display eyestrain, right?

Such a monster monitor is available from a British firm, Dwight Cavendish Displays Ltd. The company's Spectrolight system uses red, green and blue lasers to produce images that can be projected onto any conveniently available (preferably large) surface.

If you think such a display would make a perfect addition to your den or family room, you should be aware of a few limitations. For instance, the lasers must be water-cooled, and the 28 kilowatts of power Spectrolight draws might cause the hands to spin off your electric meter.

For additional information, contact Dwight Cavendish Displays Ltd., Unit 5, Bydand Lane, Little Paxton, St. Neots, PE19 4ES, England. Or, if you happen to be in the United Kingdom and want to pay a visit to the company, just drive toward the glow in the sky.

HOW TO DO ANYTHING BETTER ON COMPUSERVE

Save Time, Shop Smart and More!

Principal writers for this collection of "how to" articles were Cathryn Conroy, Yvonne Burry and Kathy Baird. Charles Bowen, Denise Erwin and Steve Ball also contributed articles.

Pick the Right Wine

Ah, a loaf of bread, a jug of wine, and...hold it! Please, not a jug of wine. OK. So how to find a bottled wine that will not be an embarrassment in the company of wine connoisseurs, a bottle to impress that "significant other," or simply a bottle that tastes just right?

Of course, you probably can trust the wine steward in a good restaurant if your pocketbook is well-lined, but it would be more satisfying to know how to make the right choice yourself.

The first step is to access the Wine Forum on CompuServe (GO WINEFORUM). Then there are lots of choices. One is to leave a question on the message board. Administrator Jim Kronman checks the mail every day and tries to respond "the next day" whenever possible. Other forum regulars are a great help, too.

But for an ongoing curiosity, there are more possibilities in the data libraries. There are even online wine tastings, if the spirits move you.

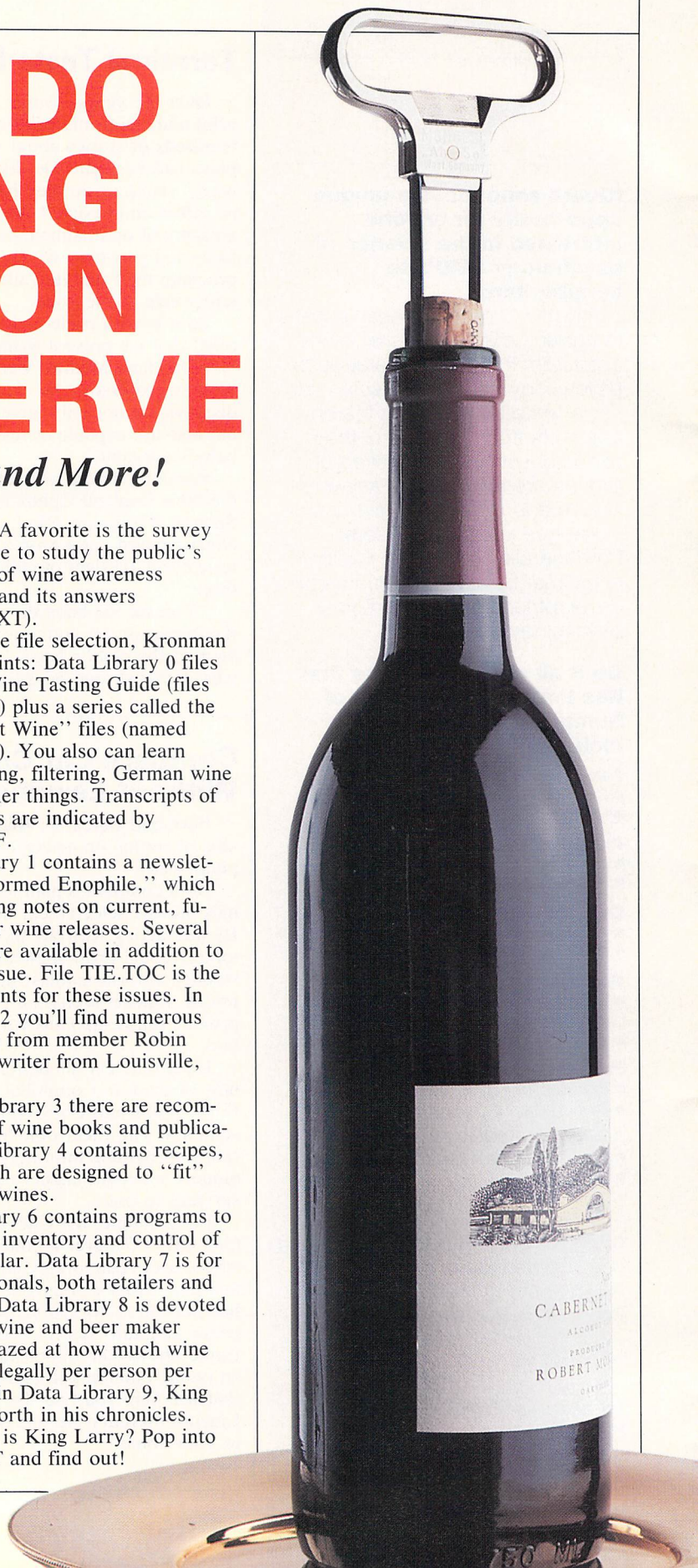
If, for example, you're interested in the blush wines that have been the rage lately, check into Data Library 0 for an online tasting (0910CO.SCR) or the transcript of a conference on blush wines (0828CO.SCR). Similar files will inform you on sparkling wines, the 1985 German vintage wines, pinot noir wines, a dictionary of wine terms and even a "how to" on planning your own wine tasting. A favorite is the survey used in France to study the public's general level of wine awareness (QUIZ.TXT) and its answers (ANSWER.TXT).

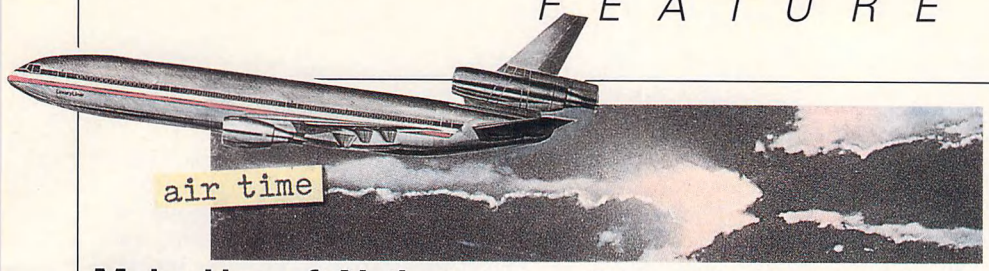
To facilitate file selection, Kronman offers these hints: Data Library 0 files contain the Wine Tasting Guide (files are WTG.xxx) plus a series called the "Know About Wine" files (named xxxxxx.KNO). You also can learn about decanting, filtering, German wine labels and other things. Transcripts of online tastings are indicated by OLRAST.INF.

Data Library 1 contains a newsletter, "The Informed Enophile," which contains tasting notes on current, future and older wine releases. Several back issues are available in addition to the current issue. File TIE.TOC is the table of contents for these issues. In Data Library 2 you'll find numerous wine columns from member Robin Garr, a wine writer from Louisville, Ky.

In Data Library 3 there are recommendations of wine books and publications. Data Library 4 contains recipes, many of which are designed to "fit" with specific wines.

Data Library 6 contains programs to help with the inventory and control of your wine cellar. Data Library 7 is for wine professionals, both retailers and wholesalers. Data Library 8 is devoted to the home wine and beer maker (you'd be amazed at how much wine can be made legally per person per year!). Then in Data Library 9, King Larry holds forth in his chronicles. Who or what is King Larry? Pop into KL-INT.TXT and find out!





Make Use of Airtime

"Flying the friendly skies" has taken on new meaning since the proliferation of the laptop computer; it's now more like flying the working skies as professionals from a variety of fields have discovered the joint power of a laptop computer and the CompuServe Information Service.

Ken Love, a freelance photographer who, according to The Associated Press, supplies 70 percent of the business photo features that run in daily newspapers, tells people he lives in Row 3, Seat C. Technically he is from Chicago, but Love spends most of his week jetting across the country, camera and Radio Shack TRS-80 Model 100 in hand.

"I have to be able to run my business, take care of correspondence and keep my expense accounts while flying," he explains, adding that he often leaves the house before dawn and returns at 8 or 9 at night, which is too late to return business calls.

"When the plane lands, I grab the nearest pay phone and upload messages and documents to clients via a number of online services. A lot of the messages I send directly to CompuServe's Public Relations and Marketing Forum where I tell clients to pick them up. I also use EasyPlex to have clients send me photo captions. Sending messages electronically instead of returning calls by phone lets my clients know I am thinking of them and not ignoring them," he says. Love accesses EasyPlex and the PR Forum at least twice a day — and usually not from the same location.

Doug Pratt has turned a boyhood hobby into a career. A model airplane enthusiast, Pratt is special projects director for the Academy of Model Aeronautics and spends much of his time writing books, brochures and informational pamphlets. To properly promote model airplanes, he has to frequently travel on the real thing.

"I was recently stuck in Chicago's O'Hare Airport waiting for a late plane to arrive. To make use of the time, I logged onto CompuServe from a pay phone, downloaded from my Personal File Area into my Model 100 two chapters of my book and started working," Pratt says, adding that he uses the Personal File Area as a repository for work.

"The Model 100 has two limitations as I see it. The first is the small screen size, and there is not much you can do about that. The second is the small memory, but CompuServe solves that basically by being a nationwide, telephone-connected disk drive."

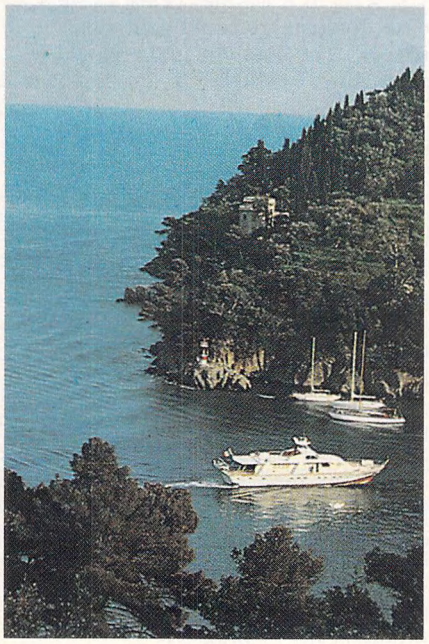
Swap Condos, Villas Worldwide

It looks like Europe is going to be big on the list of summer destinations this year. The problem is that the dollar isn't quite as elastic as it was a couple of years ago. So the trick is to find ways to make the trip more affordable. How about staying for free in a nice country home in France? Would that help?

Exactly that and more are offered by the Worldwide Exchange (GO WWX). It is the old barter system dressed up in modern garb. Offer your home or summer place in exchange for one in Europe, and scan a database with thousands of entries until you find a fit.

Updated twice each week, Worldwide Exchange lists real estate, holiday facilities, lodges, yachts and other accommodations for exchange, rent, trade, share or purchase.

For $19.95 for a year's listing, subscribers can tap into a worldwide service that deals in everything from chateaux to RVs. Howard Houck, director of WWX, says that people use the service if they are "interested in exchanging their place for someone else's." Such arrangements are often done without an exchange of money—



for example, two weeks at your place in France equals two weeks at my place in Malibu plus the use of my car. There can be negotiable items, such as cars, in these arrangements — just ask.

Worldwide Exchange also has an extensive listing of bed-and-breakfast establishments. Reservations at these and other lodges and more traditional accommodations are made by using the provided information (such as telephone numbers and addresses) contained in the database listing.

Listings now are being augmented by eight European firms specializing in bookings, so the possibilities are expanded in terms of types and geographical spread of accommodations.

To assist would-be travelers, Worldwide Exchange offers Pat's Travel Ideas (option 9 on the main WWX menu), with such features as "Sun and Island Dream Rentals"—villas and beach cabins in such places as Hawaii, Bermuda, the Caribbean, Spain and any number of places that sound so good this time of year.

Houck stresses that the type of arrangement exchange can be "a fantasy trip." Because there are no strings or obligations with participating in the listing, there is plenty of room to explore the potential traders and make sure they are just right, so at least 80 percent of all trades are "entirely satisfactory."

To access Worldwide Exchange, type GO WWX. While you're at it, type GO FLIGHTS (to access Travelshopper and OAG Electronic Edition) and get the tickets!

Check Your Portfolio Anytime Day or Night

Are you able to call your stockbroker at midnight? On the weekend? Probably not. But if you're like most investors, you probably have had questions for your stockbroker that just can't wait. With CompuServe, your portfolio-related questions can be answered immediately — whether it is midnight, a weekend or even Christmas Day.

Let's say it is the weekend before the April 15 tax return deadline and you're completing your tax return, but you don't recall how much income you realized when you finally sold some stocks. You received a report from your broker telling you what you paid for the issues and the price at which they were sold, but the shoebox the report went into has disappeared.

You needn't call your stockbroker (she won't be there anyway). Instead, dial up the CompuServe Information Service.

Using CompuServe's Portfolio Evaluation program (GO PORT), you can quickly and easily find the price of a security on the date you sold it, as well as the gain or loss realized on the sale. To run the Portfolio Evaluation program, type GO PORT. The first prompt you'll see is a request for the valuation date. This date is the date on which you wish to price the securities (in this case, the date you sold your stock shares). The date you enter should be in the form MM/DD/YY, but if it falls within the last 12 months, the year (YY) portion may be omitted.

The next prompt asks if you wish to save the resulting report in a file or have it displayed on your terminal. If you have your printer connected, you might want to simply print the report as it is displayed. Since you may want to reference the report again in the future, you might prefer to save it in an online file — now isn't this better than a shoebox? The file will reside in your Microquote storage area and may be displayed or downloaded from the "MquoteII!" prompt (GO MQUOTE).

The following prompt simply says "Portfolio:" and allows you to enter a previously stored input filename. If you've done this before, you will have a file with your portfolio information already recorded. Enter the filename to use that data or press the Return key to enter the data in the current session. At the "Input via terminal (Y/N)?" prompt, enter a "Y." Enter a filename for your input file (to save it for the next time) using either the NAME.EXT format or just a name of as many as six characters (the program then will use the default extension of .INP).

After entering the title of your portfolio (for example TAX RECORD 1987), you'll be asked to enter the

Secure a Passport on Short Notice

Ambassadors and diplomats have personal attachés to look after those crucial, often complex details associated with securing a visa and passport. Business people who often have to jet around the world at a moment's notice don't have this privilege—or do they?

With CompuServe's Visa Advisors every world traveler can have an online attaché. Located in the heart of Washington, D.C.'s Embassy Row, the service will hand carry documents to the appropriate embassies for signatures and discover the latest changes of regulations minutes after they are made.

One CompuServe subscriber living in Colorado recently had to travel to six African countries. He dutifully sent letters to the embassies requesting the proper applications for a visa. On the same day, he also contacted Visa Advisors with a list of the countries he would be visiting. He received his final visas and passports from Visa Advisors on the same day the first application from one of the African embassies arrived.

Another CompuServe user, living in New York, had to travel on business to the Soviet Union. Approval for his trip came from Moscow on the same day he was to leave, but word arrived after the embassy officially had closed for the day. Because Visa Advisors has established an effective working relationship with the Soviet embassy, an official called the Service to let them know approval had come. "We got the forms signed and the visa secured hours before his flight left. So one of us hopped on the shuttle from D.C. to New York City and hand delivered his visa so he could leave on the 7 p.m. flight as scheduled," recalls Elizabeth Wallace, president of the firm.

"The greatest advantage of our location on Embassy Row is the timeliness we can bring to securing documentation. If you know in advance you will be traveling, you can prepare for it, waiting for things to arrive by mail from the embassies. But often there is not that luxury," she says, adding that her staff members will do whatever they have to to secure a visa or passport.

Many people use the service, including a few of the famous: Kenny Rogers, Geraldo Rivera, Talia Shire and Larry Hagman.

Fees average from $22 to $25 per visa if it can be secured in Washington, D.C. To access Visa Advisors, type GO VISA.

securities one by one. Enter securities in any order by first typing the issue's ticker (such as HRB), then the number of units (if you owned 100 shares, enter 100) and finally the cost of each share (for example, 36.25). The three entries for each issue may be combined on a single line separated by commas (HRB,100,36.25) or PORT will prompt you for each item. Press the Return key to complete your entries. If you don't know a security's ticker symbol, use the Ticker/CUSIP Lookup program (GO CUSIP) first.

At the final prompt, type "C" to continue or press the Return key to produce the report. If you elected to save the report to a file, it now will reside in your Microquote file area; otherwise the report will appear on your screen. Each security type (equity, debt or options) is grouped together for ease of evaluation and the total portfolio gain or loss appears at the bottom. In addition, the price/earnings ratio is shown for equities and the dividend yield appears for equity or debt issues.

Press the Return key twice to leave the program and go on to complete your tax return. Next time you talk to your broker, tell her you really could have used her help—but don't tell her how easily you did it without her.

Deliver a Better Speech

The art of speechmaking is in the delivery, but the science is in the research. Without facts there is no speech. Whether you want to research ancient history or the latest demographics of an obscure hamlet in New England, CompuServe will have the answers to your questions.

Bill Hambaro of Monterey, Calif. is an interpreter for the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Making speeches to groups of all ages — from preschoolers to senior citizens — is an important part of his job as he travels around the state promoting the California state parks.

"There is a lot of legwork involved in this, and sometimes I find myself stuck for facts. Using CompuServe has not only helped me to save time, it has also saved me some embarrassment. There is nothing worse than mentioning a date that turns out to be the wrong date or having a misspelling appearing in print under my name," he says.

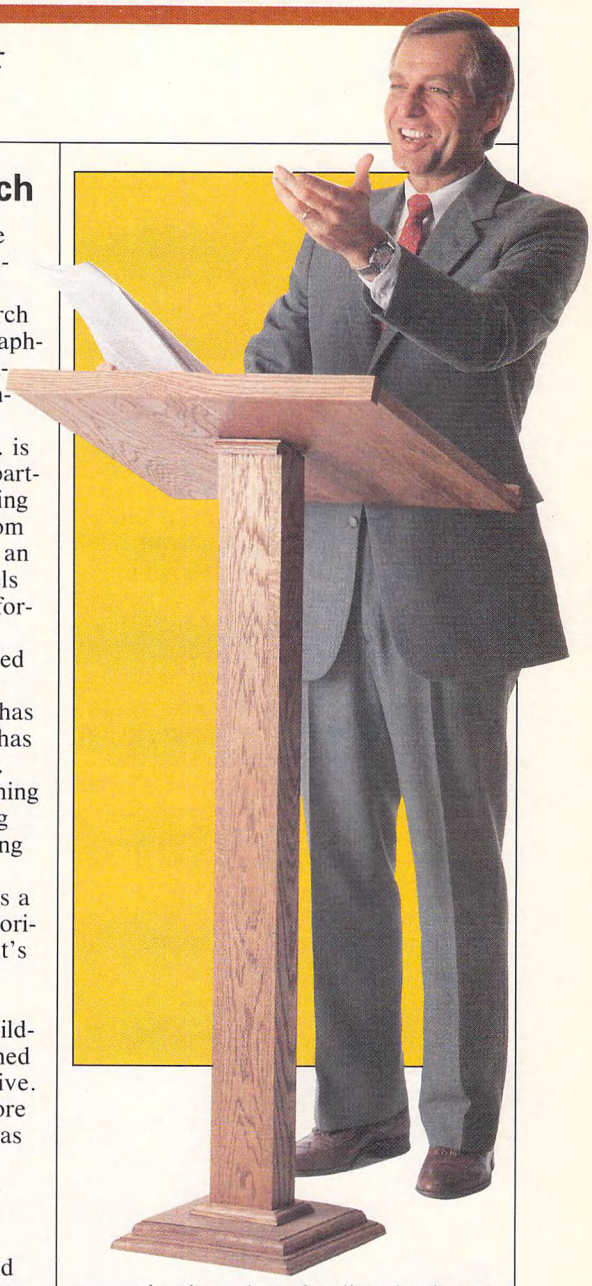
He primarily uses CompuServe as a "fact checker" after exhausting historical sources at the local library, but it's also useful when time is short.

"I recently had to give a talk in Monterey County on our historic buildings and talk about what had happened to the city from an historic perspective. I received the assignment a day before I had to make the presentation. It was critical that my facts be absolutely correct and that I not insult the Hispanic community, which definitely knows its history. I had to create a program that would involve them and invite their participation, and time was of the essence.

"CompuServe proved to be a real face-saver because it turned out I had a few dates that were incorrect. It really helped me out in this situation," explains Hambaro, who finds the online *Grolier's Academic American Encyclopedia* (GO AAE) indispensable.

Researching current facts is also easy on CompuServe. Ron Solberg, second vice president, corporate affairs for Continental Illinois Bank, spends a great deal of time traveling around the country speaking to various public relations professionals about the use of online databases.

"One of the most important things I use is the neighborhood demographic reports service, SUPERSITE (GO SUPERSITE), because it localizes the presentation. I find there is nothing that



can make the value of online databases immediately so apparent as to say to an audience, 'Let me tell you something about you,'" he says, adding that he then tells the group very specific details about where they live based on information culled from CompuServe.

"Their eyes open wide, and they understand the power of online services like they've never understood before," he explains.

Solberg says he often uses the forums for additional information, going right to the online experts.

"I find by doing this, I can pull an anecdote from here, an example from there, store it all in my computer and then pull the appropriate bits and pieces together to form the whole speech. It's dynamic and constantly changing, making the speech really come alive."

Read 'N' Sleep

Have you ever wished you had the resources of your local newspaper or television station working *just for you,* with an editor on call sifting through the daily news—even when you're asleep—and pulling out stories you're interested in?

The Executive News Service will monitor news as it comes in from The Associated Press and *The Washington Post*, saving stories for you. You can establish up to three electronic "clipping folders" containing keywords about subjects you are interested in.

ENS works around the clock, even when you're not online, automatically clipping stories containing your specified keywords, then offering them to you the next time you visit the service.

To use it, you first must sign up for the CompuServe Executive Option, which provides a number of additional online services. There is a monthly minimum of $10 for the Executive Option. For more details, type GO EXECUTIVE at any system prompt. Once signed up, you can use the Executive News service by typing GO ENS.

Suppose election fever has hit your household and you want ENS to follow news of your favorite candidates. Here's how to create your first clipping folder:

1. From the ENS main menu, select the "Create/Change/Delete a Folder" option.

2. Select "Create a Clipping Folder" from the subsequent menu and the system prompts for the folder's name —up to 10 characters, such as ELECTIONS.

3. Next you're asked for the folder's expiration date—how long you want the folder to exist—entered in the common numbers/slashes format, as in 11/30/87.

4. The next prompt asks for the number of days to retain clipped stories. If you plan to check in every other day, you'd enter 2.

5. After that, ENS lists its news wires—*The Washington Post*, The Associated Press "Datastream" (the national AP wire) and the 50 individual AP state wires. You specify the wires to monitor, such as the AP national wire, *The Post* and the wires in the individual states in which major primary elections are upcoming. You can select as many wires as you'd like.

6. The next prompt asks the news *categories* you want monitored—domestic news, general features, entertainment, financial, international, commentary, regional news, sports and/or Washington news. (For ELECTIONS, you might choose domestic, commentary, regional and Washington.)

7. Finally, ENS seeks up to seven keywords or phrases, such as the candidates' names. Also you can link keywords—such as SMITH + VOTERS and SMITH + ELECTION—and use short phrases (LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS). An asterisk (*) is a wildcard, so VOT* would clip stories containing "vote," "votes," "voters," "voting," etc.

The system stores the ELECTIONS folder and is ready to go to work. From now until the folder's expiration, ENS monitors your specified wires and news categories, setting aside stories containing at least one of your phrases.

To read the clipped news at any time, type GO ENS and choose the "Review Folder" option at the main menu.

To revise or delete a folder, choose the "Create/Change/Delete" option at the main ENS menu, and you'll have a chance to add and delete key phrases, news wires and categories, and change the expiration date and the retention days.

Remember Mama

When 18-year-old Stephen McCaffrey sat down to read his new issue of *Online Today* one Saturday last May, he suddenly remembered that Mother's Day was just hours away. His panic quickly was put to rest as an item in the magazine caught his attention. He could order flowers from Walter Knoll Florist online. "Perfect," he thought.

McCaffrey logged onto CompuServe and pulled from his wallet his brand new VISA card. A CompuServe user since his sophomore year in high school, McCaffrey easily manipulated The Electronic Mall menus, selected a dozen long-stemmed pink roses,

Maintain a Network of Professional Contacts

Julie Poage's touch stretches from Springfield, Ore., to the Chicago area. Yours might go further. It depends on where your professional contacts are. For Julie, her friends and countless others whose careers have caused them to drift apart, CompuServe provides a high-tech way to keep in touch, and maintain or even build an all-important networks of contacts.

When a sojourn into graduate school caused Poage to leave her teaching contacts in the Windy City, she discovered the ideal links: "I find EasyPlex much easier to use than the US Mail. But I also have started using the CB Simulator to actually talk with friends in Chicago," she says.

Talking on the CB Simulator (GO CB) is like being on the CB airwaves. You pick a "handle" or code name. And you can chat with whoever comes into the same channel. There are 72 channels to use, with only a few assignments: channel 1 for grown-ups; channel 17 for the younger set; channel 22 for seniors; and channel 33 for alternative lifestyles.

Other than that, you pick the channel, and CompuServe can display such things as your handle, the channel in use, and the handle and User ID number of the person you're "speaking" to. Real names aren't necessarily used, but subscriber numbers are real, so contacts also can be reached via EasyPlex.

On CB, subscribers can participate in the chatter of an open channel (you can get a summary of the handles, locations and User ID numbers of the others on your channel). Other channels can be monitored without actually participating in the conversations, and it is even possible to shut off someone who keeps butting in, or "tattle" (an official complaint) on someone who is offensive.

A special feature of CB is the "Scrambled Talks" option. By prearranging a code word or phrase and setting a time and date for a rendezvous, a group of friends or colleagues can access the CB Simulator and have a private conversation that appears scrambled to others on that channel.

"Four or five of us gather in the scramble mode," says Poage. "It is almost like a conference call using the phone, but the rates are less expensive using CompuServe."

Gary Clark, of Williamsville, N.Y., also has lived in several places and decided to link the dozen or so friends to whom he normally writes letters. They didn't all know each other before Clark suggested a CompuServe link, but now they do. Clark says it is "a way for me to make a long-time dream of having all my friends in the same room at the same time become a reality." He advises, "Look into your own life. Find the networks that already exist. Bring them to CompuServe. It increases the worth of the service and enriches daily life.'

Ask for Career Advice

If a co-worker or an office policy is driving you to the brink of insanity, take heart. CompuServe's DR. JOB can provide sensible tips to help you solve your problem and enjoy your job once more. DR. JOB — actually Sandra Pesmen, features editor for *Crain's Chicago Business* — runs an electronic advice column offering solutions to job-related problems.

To ask for advice, type GO DRJ and select option 4, "Feedback," from the DR. JOB main menu. Describe your problem and enter a carriage return at the end of each line and a blank line at the end of your message.

DR. JOB will consult her network of business experts to prepare a personalized answer. Soon, your question will be anonymously displayed and answered online for the benefit of other CompuServe users, or it will be personally answered via EasyPlex.

After your problem is solved, keep your job sailing smoothly by regularly checking DR. JOB's other features. On the DR. JOB main menu, select option 2, "Questions and Answers," to review other users' questions. It is sure to shed light on the world of work—and you might even recognize yourself in some of the situations discussed.

To improve your business sense, refer regularly to Option 3, "Career Tips," for longer articles on frequently faced career situations. Pesmen bases these features on the questions asked most often by her readers.

Whether you work in the executive suite, the secretarial pool or the mail room, you'll find that DR. JOB offers some advice that will hit home.

broke in the new VISA and sat back to await delivery of the flowers.

"My only excuse for forgetting, which really isn't an excuse at all, is that I was busy studying for final exams and preparing for graduation," he says.

His mother "was shocked when an overnight delivery truck pulled into the driveway on Sunday morning. She gave me a big hug and then asked me why I just didn't buy her candy. I told her I knew how much she loved flowers. It was the most expensive gift I've ever given, but definitely the most meaningful," says McCaffrey, who adds that he has paid for all of his CompuServe expenses with money earned from a paper route.

The florist that saved Mother's Day for this Springfield, Ill., teen-ager is Walter Knoll Florist, a family business located in St. Louis, Mo., that wants to be the "local" florist for anyone with a modem and access to CompuServe.

Walter Knoll has 53 years experience in professional floral services and is operated by Walter, his wife, Gail, and their three sons and daughters-in-law. In addition to holiday specials, Walter Knoll will send flowers — or balloons or fruit baskets — anywhere in the world for any occasion.

Numerous varied selections are available from corsages to bouquets of pastel spring flowers to bold, bright floral arrangements. Prices vary from less than $10 to more than $30.

For information on ordering, type GO WK at any prompt.

Entertain the Gang on a Rainy Night

There's nothing worse than cabin fever at winter's end. You've had enough of winter, but the weather won't relent. Now, it's raining. The troops are restless. A long evening looms ahead. What to do? Simply gather friends, family, or just you and the pooch around the cozy terminal screen. Log into CompuServe's entertainment/games area and get ready to flex those neurons. It's trivia time.

If you are looking for entertainment and education, then try *You Guessed It!*. Here is a choice that is just about as good as having a television game show online. When you GO YGI, there is always someone to help you get started. For 30 minutes, the likes of host Bob Illuminati, Chef Jacques DuLard and company will give you the best in trivia.

Then, if you want to know how much you've forgotten about high school science, (go on, you can take it!) the Science Trivia game (GO SCITRIVIA) will rebuild those long-forgotten test questions in a gentle way.

Need other things to do? *Traveler's Challenge*, for those 12 years old and up, is a blend of history, geography and travel trivia. Whether you know the answer or not, you'll get a morsel of trivia with your response.

And instead of getting desperate and turning on the television, you can access the *SHOWBIZQUIZ* and dust off recollections of "Star Trek" episodes, "Gone With The Wind," "The Wizard of Oz," and tidbits of info on The Duke, Old Blue Eyes, the Three Stooges, the Rolling Stones and others. Trekkies, for instance, can answer questions based on individual episodes while finding out all sorts of behind-the-scenes gossip and facts that are built into the questions.

Then if you're ready for the ultimate trivia, *The Multiple Choice* (GO TMC) offers several levels of games, from word jumbles for the kids to *Stage II*—the ultimate trivia game that first quizzes single or team respondents on three questions, then challenges them to find the thread that links all three answers together.

When you're sure the cobwebs are taking permanent residence in your cranium, let the IQ Test quiz you on general information, analogies, definitions and number memory exercises, then explain what your IQ score means.

If you really want a gray day eye-opener, try *So You Think You Know Me* (choice 6 on the Games menu). Here you and your spouse, child, parent or friend are prompted to answer questions about each other. The program matches answers and serves some surprises guaranteed to make it a rainy day to remember.

Know the Weather for Wherever

If a flight, boating excursion, ski vacation or trip to the beach is in your plans, turn first to CompuServe's National Weather Service Public Weather.

Whether there is sun or rain, heat or cold, wind, fog or smog where you're headed, you'll find out what to expect without leaving the warm, dry comfort of home. Then, you'll know whether to pack an umbrella, winter coat or just a jacket.

The service is available under "News, Weather, Sports" in the main menu. Or type GO WEA at any prompt in the CompuServe Information Service to access the service directly. NWS Public Weather provides National Weather Service forecasts from major weather stations across the country in a way easily understood by the public.

The information is updated continuously to ensure reliability of the forecasts.

Before you pack your bags for that trip out of town, choose option 1, "Local Forecasts," and enter the city name of your destination. You'll receive today's and tomorrow's complete weather outlook and will know whether to pack your coat or umbrella. To make things easier, you also can type the city's three-letter code shown on your airline ticket (such as LAX) or the first five letters of the city and its state code (such as LOS A, CA).

If you're traveling to a smaller city that does not file a report—say San Bernadino, Calif.—type the two-digit state code (CA) to receive forecasts from all reporting locations within the state.

To check an overall summary of the California forecast for the next two to three days, select option 2, "State Forecast," at the main NWS Weather menu. Select option 3, "Extended Forecast," for a look at weather predictions for the next three to five days.

Other highlights of the NWS Public Weather service include: information on precipitation probability for various locations, marine warnings and forecasts for boaters; sports forecasts including information on weather conditions at skiing and resort areas; information on weather warnings; and aviation reports for pilots.

With NWS Public Weather, no matter what the activity or location, your recreational plans will be off to a better start.

Meet Fellow Telecommuters

If it's true that who you know is sometimes more important than what you know, CompuServe's forums are the place to be known.

Virtually every professional uses networking—consciously or unconsciously—meeting colleagues and getting established in a field. But electronic networking among professionals can produce some extraordinary results, since individuals are no longer limited to a certain geographical area. The potential of electronic networking is truly limitless.

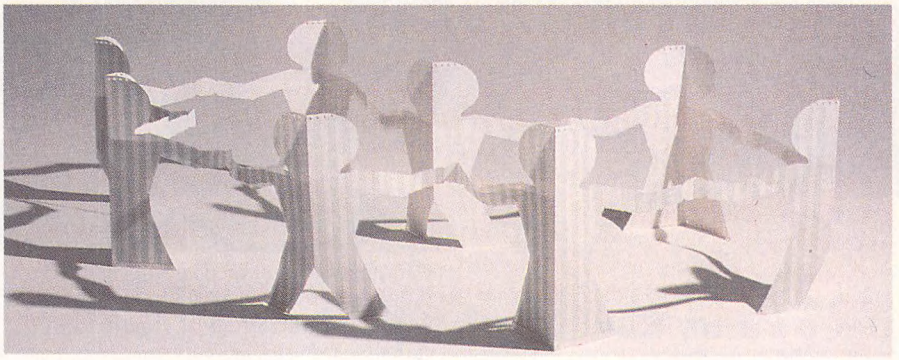
Two years ago, Georgene Muller of Sandy Hook, Conn., established her own public relations and advertising agency, Muller Communications Group. Although she now has a studio, her first months were spent working from an office in her home.

"When I first left my busy, high-pressure office to start my own business, I was excited and relieved. Excited to be exploring my own potential and relieved to be free of the long daily commute and the 9 to 5 grind. But soon I found I missed the office socializing. Although I joined local business networks, I longed to talk regularly to others who were facing some of the special problems posed by working from home," she recalls.

Muller found that link electronically in the Working From Home Forum. "I stumbled on it and have been a 'neighbor' ever since! I found support, information, an occasional laugh, and thought-provoking questions about self-employment, doing business and working successfully from home. Now I can visit with my friends in 'the office' anytime I want."

She says the single most important advantage to electronic networking is that it has boosted her confidence. "I'm still building my business, but my online friends have convinced me to hang in there at times when I might have given up."

Likening electronic networking to a fishnet—"you throw it out and don't know what will come back in"—Ron Solberg, second vice president, corporate affairs at Continental Illinois Bank and forum administrator of the Public Relations and Marketing Forum, says that this kind of person-to-person contact has been an important professional tool for him.



"Meeting people online is easier than in person because there are fewer barriers. People are less shy. Besides, because you can't see them, there is a bit of intrigue and speculation," he explains.

Solberg believes the best way to network electronically is to visit the forums frequently but for just a few minutes each time. "People lose out when they only visit occasionally and then spend an hour or two at a time. The best way, and most economical, is to drop by for just 10 minutes but do it more frequently."

Make Better Business Decisions

Sandra is scheduled to participate in a meeting tomorrow to determine which long-distance telephone carrier her company will use. An error in choice could be a costly mistake.

She remembers reading in *Forbes* several months ago an article that would provide some pertinent facts. However, it's already 9:30 p.m. and her local library is closed.

Instead, Sandra turns to IQuest on the CompuServe Information Service. After logging on, she types "GO IQUEST" and selects "Access IQuest" from the menu. Next, she chooses option 2, IQuest II: "You pick the database," since she knows she wants to access Magazine ASAP, a good source of magazine references.

She then can choose to search by subject words, personal names, product names, geographic codes, magazine names, publication dates or article types. She chooses option 5, Magazine names, since she knows the article was in *Forbes*.

Next, rather than searching a list of magazine names, she chooses to execute a magazine name search, option 1. She is informed that her search will carry a surcharge and is asked if she wants to proceed. Then she is asked to enter the name of the magazine. She types FORBES. After confirming her entry, the system allows Sandra to begin the search or to "add more fields" that will narrow the topic. She selects option 2, "Add more fields," then selects option 1, "By subject words."

The next menu allows her to select her subject in three ways, "By words in all subject fields," "By words in titles, descriptors," and "By words in titles." She selects option 1, "By words in all subject fields."

The service asks Sandra to enter her specific topic. She enters "telecommunications." After confirming her choice, and declining to add more fields, she chooses option 1, "Start the search."

Sandra watches the screen for several minutes as the system searches the Magazine ASAP database. She soon learns that 14 items satisfy her search terms. She is shown headings for the 14 most recent articles about telecommunications which have appeared in *Forbes*. From those headings, she is asked to choose which article to display and is informed that one full-text article may be retrieved at no additional cost.

There's the article she wants. Heading number 4, "*Forbes* Annual Report on American Industry," by John Hayes, published January 13, 1986. The full 44-line text is available online.

Sandra readies her printer, then selects option 4. The full text of the article is printed out.

Sandra reviews the article to learn the status of major competing long-distance carriers. With the article in hand, she is ready for the next day's meeting.

Get a Better Buy on a New Car

Instead of enduring the spiels of a high-pressure car salesman, you can get a better buy on a new car and make a better-educated decision through CompuServe's New Car Showroom.

The New Car Showroom, provided by Autonet/Autobase Access Dynamics Inc. based in Concord, Mass., is a completely revamped, comprehensive database covering 68 technical specifications, features and pricing for 1987 models.

"It is the ideal online database because it is indexed for rapid retrieval of only the data of interest to the user, and it provides independent and objective manufacturer data," says Wayne R. Lilly, Access Dynamics Inc. spokesman. "Moreover, The New Car Showroom is useful because it takes full advantage of both the computer and the dial-up database medium."

The database features more than 600 cars, special purpose vehicles, wagons, passenger vans and small pickup trucks.

"We have revised the database and we now keep it more accurate than printed information. Since we do not have preset publishing deadlines, we can update the data as often as is needed to keep prices and specifications current, and we can add new models as they come out," Lilly says.

Online users may see lists of manufacturers and models, run comparisons of two models side-by-side, price a car with popular options, search for models that fit their needs and determine

Select a Seminar

Use CompuServe to mix business with pleasure and make your next seminar better with EdVENT II, a comprehensive, professional education database provided by Timeplace Inc. of Waltham, Mass.

Subscribers search the database by subject, location and dates in either regular or expert mode. For example, if you are interested in new investments and would like to get in some skiing before spring, begin your search for a pleasure-mixed business seminar by typing GO EDV at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

After reaching the EdVENT II main menu, type "investing in Colorado on 3/15 to 4/15" at the Enter Request: prompt in expert mode. The number of events found will be displayed on the screen.

"The database is cross-indexed by keywords to help professionals quickly and easily pinpoint the right course, time and location," says Charlie Jutkiewicz, Timeplace marketing vice president.

EdVENT II lists more than 125,000 seminars, workshops, training events and meetings throughout North America that are sponsored by more than 5,800 organizations including colleges and the government. It is updated biweekly.

"The database is very searchable and it allows you to plan efficiently within your schedule," says Marcia Haddox, CompuServe marketing associate.

In the investment seminar example, by pressing the Return key after the listing appears, you will receive a display menu of the first eight seminars, including "Gold and Silver for Experienced Miners" and "Investing for Income."

For more detailed information on the second seminar, select the menu option. The seminar's description includes instructor, sponsor, cost, duration, address, dates and phone number for making reservations. Contacts for registration and discount rates also are available online.

"The database is primarily occupation-oriented and it is very comprehensive. Although management development and computer courses are the most popular, agricultural, legal, medical, science, engineering and financial courses also are listed," Jutkiewicz says.

The database menu provides general information about each seminar and access to more detailed information. EdVENT II contains seminar listings including agenda topics, content summaries, schedules and purpose statements for more than 40,000 topics. It also lists about 10,000 international courses.

"There is no other source like this anywhere unless you save every seminar brochure that crosses your desk. It is useful to know what is available at your convenience," Haddox says.

The introduction to EdVENT II explains the program and the use of wildcard and parentheses in the search. The EdVENT II Demo illustrates sample searches using standard and expert modes.

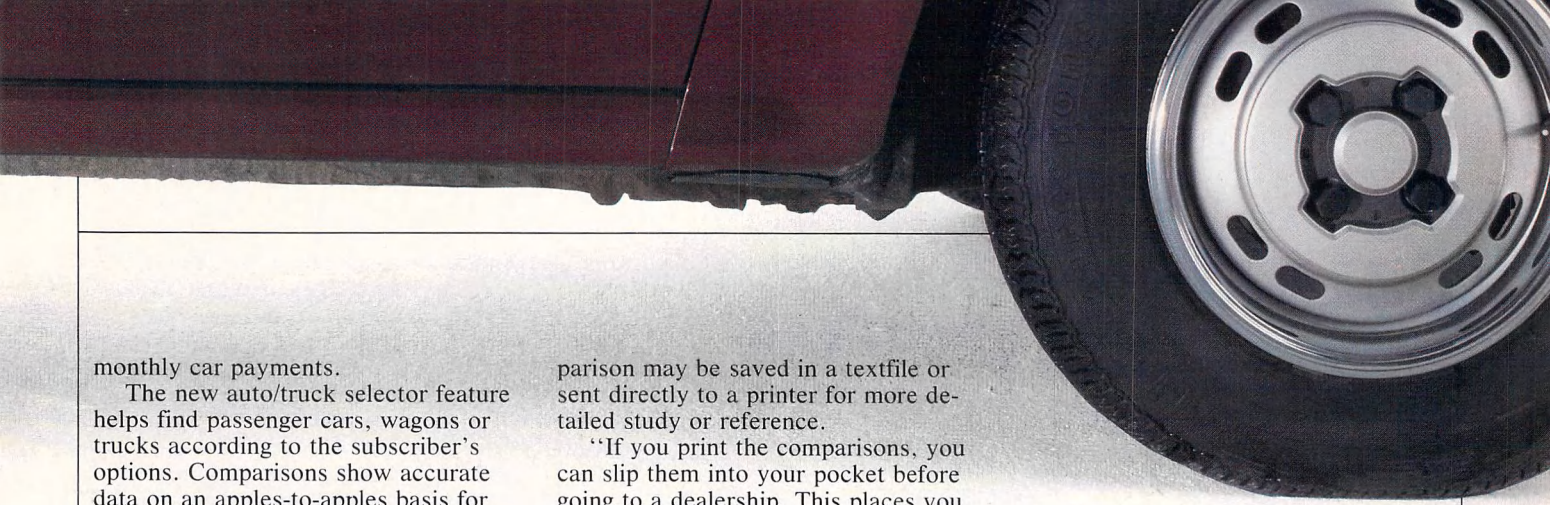
To enter the EdVENT II search mode, select either the standard or the expert search mode from the menu. The standard mode prompts you for subject, state(s) and date. The expert mode allows you to enter required information in one step.

"The expert mode is much quicker, but both will help you get all of the information available. Topics include business and professional courses, golf, cooking and child development," Haddox says.

Subscribers may use EdVENT II to better manage their professional and recreational time schedules. Seminar listings are welcome and solicited.

"EdVENT II also allows comparison shopping. Although the majority of those who use the database are trying to avoid seminar shopping hassles, many use the database as a networking tool to find consultants in a particular field.

"It is a dynamic marketplace, but EdVENT II lists nearly 80 percent of the courses available. The database is continually updated with new search capabilities and increasing numbers of offered courses," Jutkiewicz says.



monthly car payments.

The new auto/truck selector feature helps find passenger cars, wagons or trucks according to the subscriber's options. Comparisons show accurate data on an apples-to-apples basis for appraisal of chosen models.

"This is made possible by maintaining a complete set of data items across nearly all cars and by using the computer to price out a car simply and easily by adding desired optional features to the base price," Lilly says.

The system also uses computer technology to search and analyze the large database rapidly to assist and "recommend" cars that may be of interest based on the user's needs. It is not necessary to know model names in advance.

"Cars are expensive investments and it is not surprising that people are willing to spend time researching with CompuServe before purchasing their next car, especially if they are disappointed with visiting showrooms or reading consumer print publications," Lilly says. "The feedback we have received from online consumers and auto industry professionals indicates that our product plays an important role in the buying and selling of cars."

"On the seller side, car dealers and manufacturers' representatives use our service to keep up with competitive offerings and to be better prepared for shoppers who compare.

"On the buyer's side, our database helps consumers and corporate fleet car buyers select models that suit their needs and determine which cars have better value," Lilly says.

About 7,500 subscribers access the database. Lilly says using the database is quicker and easier than visiting showrooms for various models.

The information listed for each model includes pricing data, selected standard and optional features and key specifications. Subscribers may enter either a cars and vans showroom or a trucks showroom to view the models one at a time, two at a time or in a side-by-side comparison format.

"The comparison format is another advantage of The New Car Showroom. Also dealers do not always have the information you want, such as an option price list," Lilly says. The comparison may be saved in a textfile or sent directly to a printer for more detailed study or reference.

"If you print the comparisons, you can slip them into your pocket before going to a dealership. This places you in a better bargaining position," Lilly says.

If you are undecided about the car or truck you want, you can use option 4 to narrow your choices by specifying a price range, transmission, an EPA class, acceptable range of fuel economy and other requirements.

A comparison is available for a surcharge of $1.20. If you know what you want, The New Car Showroom lists base prices and cost breakdowns for 90 cents.

To visit The New Car Showroom, type GO NEWCAR at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

Get the Exact Exchange

When you plan overseas trade or travel, check the international currency exchange rates on the CompuServe Information Service. You can check exchange rates for the dollar against more than 20 different currencies.

If, for instance, you are planning a trip to Italy and you need information on exchange rates between the lira and the dollar, type GO MONEY at any prompt to access the Money Matters and Markets main menu. Select option 1, "Market Quotes/Highlights"; then select option 7, "Issue/Symbol Lookup"; option 3, "Menu of Available Indexes"; and option 3 again, "Exchange Rates."

Select the location of your destination (option 2, Europe) and you'll get a list of ticker symbols for all major European currencies. You'll find that the ticker symbol for lira is XRIL.

Remember that ticker symbol. It can be used to get detailed information on historical exchange rates.

To determine the range in exchange rates over a given historical period, select option 1 from the Money Matters and Markets main menu, "Market Quotes/Highlights" option 2, "Historical Stock/Fund Pricing," and option 1, "Pricing History." Type in the ticker symbol (XRIL). To receive a daily, weekly or monthly summary of performance, type in a starting date (for example, 11/1/86) or you can hit the Return key and type in the number of days to be reviewed, ending with today's date. You'll find that 10,000 lira equal approximately seven US dollars. By retrieving a series of quotes you can spot existing trends toward a more or less favorable exchange rate.

If you are using VIDTEX or other graphics-capable software, you can graph this variation in exchange rates for easier analysis. Select option 3 from the Historical Stock/Fund Pricing menu (option 2 under Market Quotes/Highlights). Graphs can display daily, weekly or monthly performance for 15 to 70 reporting periods.

For further pricing statistics, select option 5 from the Historical Stock/Fund Pricing menu and type the ticker symbol, XRIL. You'll receive information on average closing exchange rates, high and low exchange rates, and high and low closing exchange rates during the selected period.

If you're planning a trip overseas, this information can help you understand the price and value equivalents before you leave home.

If you're involved in foreign trade or the purchase of foreign futures or options contracts, this information can help you decide whether to postpone a sale or purchase on the possibility of soon obtaining a better exchange rate.

This information on trends in currency exchange rates can help you make the most of foreign trade and travel.

Consult the online listing of program surcharges (GO TRANSACTION) for applicable securities transaction charges.

Newcomers Find Help in Computer Forums

Newcomers to CompuServe are usually not newcomers to computers. I run into new users often who tell me that they have been computing for several years and are not only familiar with their own machines but also with computers in general.

Many experienced CompuServe users will tell you that whether you're new to computers or a veteran, you should get to know the people on CompuServe who have computers like yours. And the best places to do that are in the forums set aside for people with similar computers.

I sense there are some out there who are scoffing. "I know enough about my computer to get the job done. I can get it to do everything but roll over and jump through a hoop," you're saying. Maybe so, but if you're a newcomer to CompuServe, it is unlikely you know how to make it do all the "tricks" it is capable of doing on CompuServe. It is possible to teach an old computer user new tricks, especially when it comes to communications.

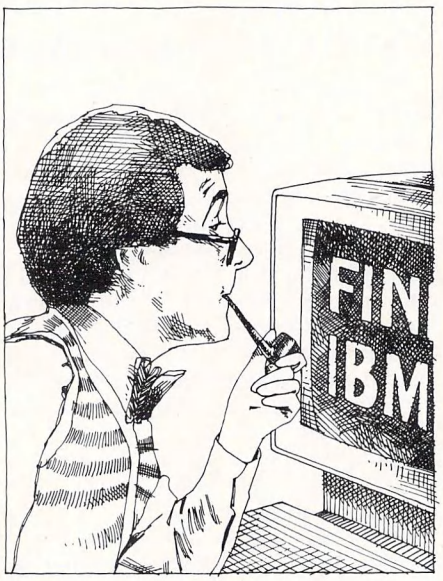
Tricks? Absolutely. Each brand of computer interacts a little differently with CompuServe and each terminal program interacts differently as well. The more you learn about how your computer and terminal program interact with CompuServe, the more efficient you'll be online. And the more efficient you are, the more time and money you'll save.

It is easy enough to find out what forums are dedicated to your computer brand. From any CompuServe prompt type the word FIND followed by the name of your computer. Don't type the model, just the brand. For example, if you own an IBM, just type FIND IBM. One word is all youu need. If you own a compatible and the system can't seem to find a match for your computer's name, type the name of the computer that your machine is compatible with. For example, if you own an IBM compatible, you'll still type FIND IBM.

In many instances, you'll be presented with more than one forum. For example, those with IBMs and compatibles are offered forums for new users, communications, hardware and software. They all are part of a group of interrelated forums called IBMNET.

Choose the forum or forums that best meet your needs and join. Read some of the bulletins to find out what the forums are about, then read some of the messages on the message board to get acquainted with what is going on.

What can these computer-related forums do for you? First and foremost, the forum administrators and users can help make your first weeks on CompuServe a lot smoother and much more efficient. Everyone who has ever tackled a new terminal program or used a familiar terminal program on a new system has had problems. Often these problems pop up when you least expect them. If you have a terminal program that is in general use, chances are someone on the forum knows about it and can help you solve any problem. Just leave a message in the appropriate section of the message board with your question and check back later to see if there is an answer.



In many of the computer forums, the data libraries contain help files about specific terminal programs. These textfiles answer the most common questions subscribers have about using their terminal programs on CompuServe. If such a help file is available, the forum administrator will refer you to that file. He or she doesn't expect you to find the file yourself, especially if you are a new user. So don't be embarrassed if somebody points you to the file.

After you've mastered using your computer and terminal program on CompuServe, there still are reasons for keeping in touch with the computer forums. For example, it is often the first place you'll learn about hardware or software problems. Because this form of communication is instantaneous, news about your brand of computer or user reviews of important new software or peripherals arrives on the forum weeks or months before the news arrives in the print medium. If you like to keep informed about what's happening, the forum is the place to do it.

And you shouldn't forget the goldmine that is to be found in the forum's data libraries. These areas contain hundreds, sometimes thousands, of public domain and shareware programs for downloading by users like yourself. In most instances, you'll find everything from short utility programs to lengthy word-processing programs to games and database programs. Face it: Computer people never have enough programs. These data libraries supply our never-ending desire for "just one more program to get the job done."

Most forum administrators are at a loss when it comes to understanding why users with problems don't seek help on the computer forums. Many suspect users are afraid that the question they have is stupid.

"There are few stupid questions," one administrator said. Any legitimate question is going to be treated as legitimate. And there are so many expert computerists on our forums these days, I don't see many questions that go unanswered."

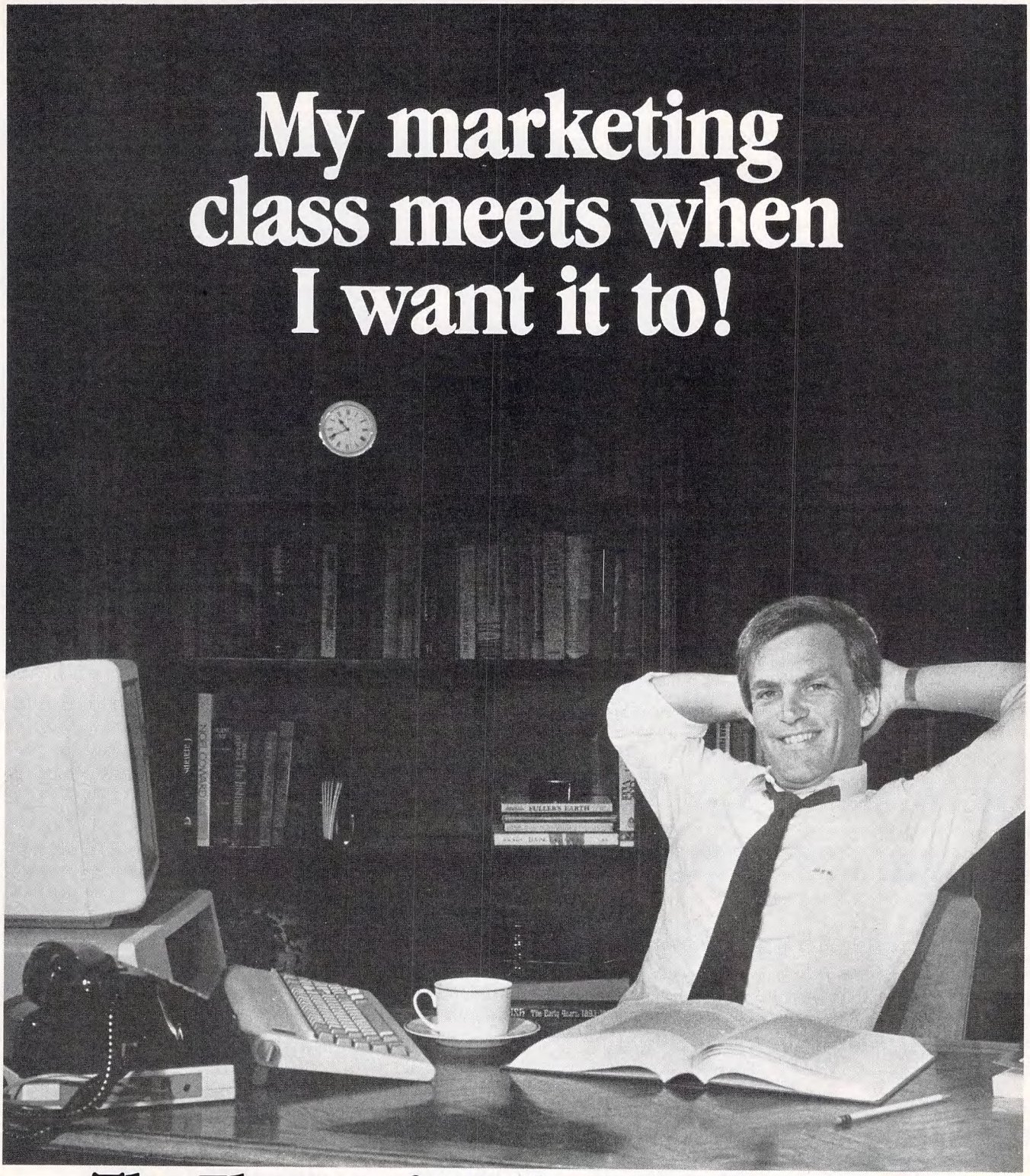
The most recent crisis in computing seems to be the lack of customer support after the product is purchased. Help lines are usually jammed. More and more hardware and software manufacturers are charging high fees to answer questions.

You can generally get that same kind of help on CompuServe's computer-related forums and do it at a price you can afford. More and more manufacturers are supporting their products online to complement phone support. For example, Lotus, Borland, Ashton-Tate, Living Videotext and Aldus are just a few of the computer software manufacturers offering online support through CompuServe forums.

It's a deal you can't afford to miss.

David Peyton co-authored How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe. *His CompuServe User ID number is 76703,244.*

My marketing class meets when I want it to!



The Electronic University Network

For some time I've wanted to take some courses to fine-tune my strategic marketing skills. But with a job, a family, a hectic schedule, finding the time to go back to a campus just isn't practical.

The convenience of the Electronic University Network makes it possible for me to take courses when I have the time—even go back for my MBA! Although I study with my personal computer and modem, no real computer knowledge is required.

Now I'm working with a marketing expert—one-on-one—and since the units I earn are from fully-accredited colleges and universities, my company's tuition reimbursement program covers the costs.

For details on enrollment, fees, participating schools, graduate and undergraduate programs, call toll free:

800 - 22 LEARN

(in California call 800 - 44 LEARN)

or send $5 for a 1986-87 catalog to
The Electronic University Network
505 Beach Street, San Francisco, CA 94133

Circle 7 on the Reader Service Form

Healthcare Information Services Save HMOs Time, Money

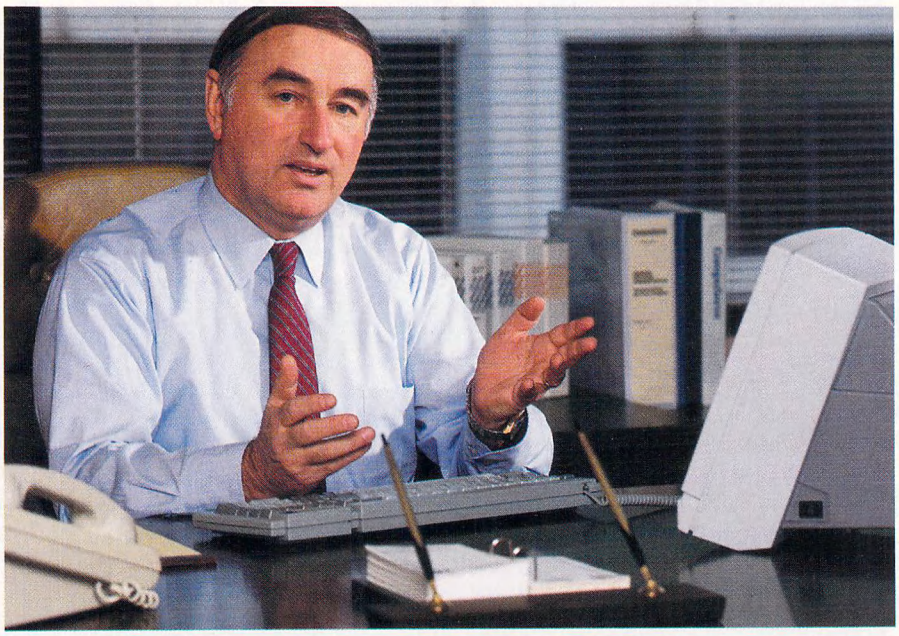
Ask health care providers about their biggest headache and most will sum it up in one word: paperwork. To determine a participant's eligibility, send bills and collect payment, reams of it must be shuffled between government agencies, hospitals and HMOs or other providers.

"This type of paper process is inefficient and costly," says Michael J. Mahoney, CompuServe's director of federal government marketing. "Delays and mistakes are inevitable because information is entered and re-entered at several stages. Our services to HMOs and other health care providers eliminate most of these problems."

A variety of comprehensive, related services are available, beginning with determining a person's eligibility through access to the Social Security Administration's "HI Mini-Master File," which contains up-to-date records of all individuals eligible for Medicare.

"Access to this data saves HMOs time and money," Mahoney says. "When the HMO submits information to the Social Security Administration and to the Health Care Financing Administration without access to current eligibility information, the application is frequently rejected. As a consequence, the HMO does not receive compensation, resulting in lost revenue."

Once eligibility is determined, providers can use CompuServe's online Accretion/Deletion System throughout the month to enroll the candidate in the HMO's health care plan. At the end of the month, a close-out process is employed in which all data is processed and transmitted to the HCFA, which then processes all the accretions (new members) and deletions.



Cutting inefficient paperwork: *Mahoney assists health care providers*

"This procedure is also of great benefit to HMOs because so much time is saved by doing it electronically that five to eight more days are available each month to enroll members in the HMO's plan," Mahoney reports. "Another significant benefit is that the error rate, which can range from eight to 20 percent using the traditional paper process, can be reduced to as little as two-tenths of one percent using CompuServe's system."

Once eligibility is determined and a membership file created, the HMO and the HCFA can use the Automated Rate Book System to calculate the rate cell for each member in the plan. A rate cell is the basis for determination of payment for each person based on age, sex and demographic information. One hundred and twenty-four rate cell categories exist, each with a different rate of payment.

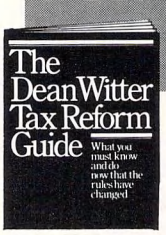
"This system tells HMOs what they should have been paid for each member each month," says Mahoney. "It is a vital part of the process. Before the Automated Rate Book became available, reconciling what the HMO was paid by HCFA and what they were actually owed was a time-consuming manual process that was done only once or twice a year. With the Rate Book, monthly calculations can be made easily."

Mahoney cites another key feature of the system as being the nearly unlimited capability for interface between CompuServe's system and whatever system an HMO already has installed. "There is no need to invest in new equipment to use our system," Mahoney says. "We can interface with a variety of personal computers. This interface also eliminates the need for double entry—therefore the HMO's records are an exact replica of the records stored in the HCFA Group Health Plan file on CompuServe."

Finally, a reporting module can be used to produce production and management reports online. "We've received a lot of compliments from our customers," Mahoney says. "They have been quick to tell us what a benefit our service has been to the successful management of their plans."

—Carole Houze Gerber

An intelligent response to Tax Reform.



To find out ways to benefit from the new tax law, go DWR for a free copy of this Guide.

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DEAN WITTER Consumer Markets

GO EBB or circle 8 on the Reader Service Form.

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Evaluate Companies with Alcar Interface

Corporate planners and merger acquisition specialists can save time and avoid data entry errors when evaluating various companies by using CompuServe's new Alcar Interface. This simple, prompt-driven program retrieves data from the COMPUSTAT II® Annual Industrial or Aggregate database for analysis with the popular Alcar software.

"It was written so that people don't have to input the data manually," explains Product Manager Andy Balogh. "Users will probably save at least an hour every time they look at a company."

Alcar Interface can be used to download COMPUSTAT II® data from CompuServe's mainframe. The data will appear in the format of an ASCII data file that then can be "imported" into the Alcar software by using Alcar's AlcarLink software.

The speed of this automated data retrieval leaves users with more time to spend on analysis using Alcar software such as The Value Planner, The Merger Planner or The Strategy Planner.

The companies to be analyzed can first be selected through use of CSCAN and VSCAN, two powerful CompuServe screening products. CSCAN searches such products as COMPUSTAT II®, Disclosure, I/B/E/S and Value Line for companies that meet the user's criteria. VSCAN searches the Value securities database of more than 80,000 issues.

Suppose a user then decides to analyze IBM Corp.'s performance over the past five years. The next step is to request a program on the CompuServe host called CSALCAR.

A prompt then asks the user to select the COMPUSTAT II® industrial (IND) or aggregate (AGG) database. After "IND" is entered, the prompt asks for a scenario. The user types "A FIVE YEAR LOOK AT IBM."

A ticker symbol is requested, so the user enters "IBM." The next prompt asks for beginning and ending years. The user enters "81,85."

The next prompt allows the user to select the transfer protocol for downloading. Finally, there is an opportunity to retrieve information about another company.

After the user performs these steps, the desired data resides on his microcomputer, ready to be put to work with Alcar software. When used with the Alcar Value Planner, it can evaluate a company's worth based on how projected financial statements would impact shareholder value. When employed with the Alcar Merger Planner, it can help users evaluate how a merger, acquisition or divestiture would impact an organization's accounting statement and shareholder value.

Alcar Interface makes it both quick and simple to analyze COMPUSTAT II® data with the powerful Alcar software.

—Kathy Baird

For More Business Information

To obtain more information about capabilities offered to CompuServe's business information products, contact the CompuServe branch sales office nearest you:

Phoenix, Ariz.
602/997-4422
Irvine, Calif.
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Los Angeles, Calif.
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San Francisco, Calif.
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Indianapolis, Ind.
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Louisville, Ky.
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Boston, Mass.
617/235-0772
Detroit, Mich.
313/362-1860
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612/338-5678
St. Louis, Mo.
314/241-0700
Parsippany, N.J.
201/898-1944
New York, Commercial
212/486-2440
New York, Financial
212/668-0471
Cincinnati, Ohio
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Cleveland, Ohio
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Columbus, Ohio
614/792-1301
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(Telephone Survey 6/86)

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Business Briefs

Touch Terminals Tested

In conjunction with Diebold Company, a manufacturer of Automatic Teller Machines, CompuServe is conducting trials on a new online videotex kiosk. By touching the screen, users can read information stored on a laser disk or access selected videotex services from CompuServe.

Information on the kiosks, which are being tested in banks, supermarkets, airports and shopping malls, varies according to location. Bank customers, for example, can access information stored on laser disk about bank services such as CD rates and types of checking accounts. Videotex adds other financial information such as stock quotes, market summaries and stock charts.

In airports, videotex services such as Travelshopper may be offered instead. In all locations, the inclusion of such general information as news headlines, and weather, sports and entertainment information, entices people to approach the kiosks.

Computer Training Network Opens

The estimated 150,000 professional computer trainers employed by corporations now have a forum through which they can exchange information. CompuServe's Computer Training Network, provided by the National Training and Computers Project of Sagamore Institute in upstate New York, is aimed at serving the 7,000 current members of the National Training and Computers Network and other interested parties.

Because there is no national professional organization for computer training and support specialists, the forum serves as a means of exchange that incorporates the latest technology.

A special feature offered through the forum is its public domain courseware. Like public domain software, the courseware shared online includes training outlines and designs prepared by forum members. Detailed textfiles can be formatted for popular word processing packages then downloaded through the forum. This service can help eliminate duplicate efforts among trainers around the country.

The forum, which is open to the public, can be accessed by typing GO DPTRAIN at any prompt in the CompuServe Information Service.

International Entrepreneurs' Network Covers International Trade

The International Entrepreneurs' Network has added a new data library titled "International Trade" that provides technical and reference information to help US companies to more effectively pursue foreign business. References that can help open international marketing channels and provide financial assistance also are included in the library.

To access the International Entrepreneurs' Network, type GO USEN at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

SUPERSITE Adds Reports, Updates

The SUPERSITE demographic database now offers several new reports and updates to Executive Option subscribers.

New reports include the Health/Medical Insurance report and the Media report. The Health Insurance report indicates the likelihood of carrying medical insurance by source, including work or union, agent, Medicare or Medicaid. There is a surcharge of $25 for using the Health Insurance Report.

The three-page Media report, which carries a surcharge of $100, shows the number of expected listeners, viewers and readers and the market potential index for various types of media.

Several updated reports also are offered. The Financial Services report has been updated and modified, based on new calculations for the market potential index. The Investment Services report now includes the market potential index for each type of investment. All of these reports are part of the ACORN Target Marketing system within SUPERSITE.

In addition, SUPERSITE's 1980 census detail reports have been lowered $5 and now cost $20.

To access the service, type GO SUPERSITE at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

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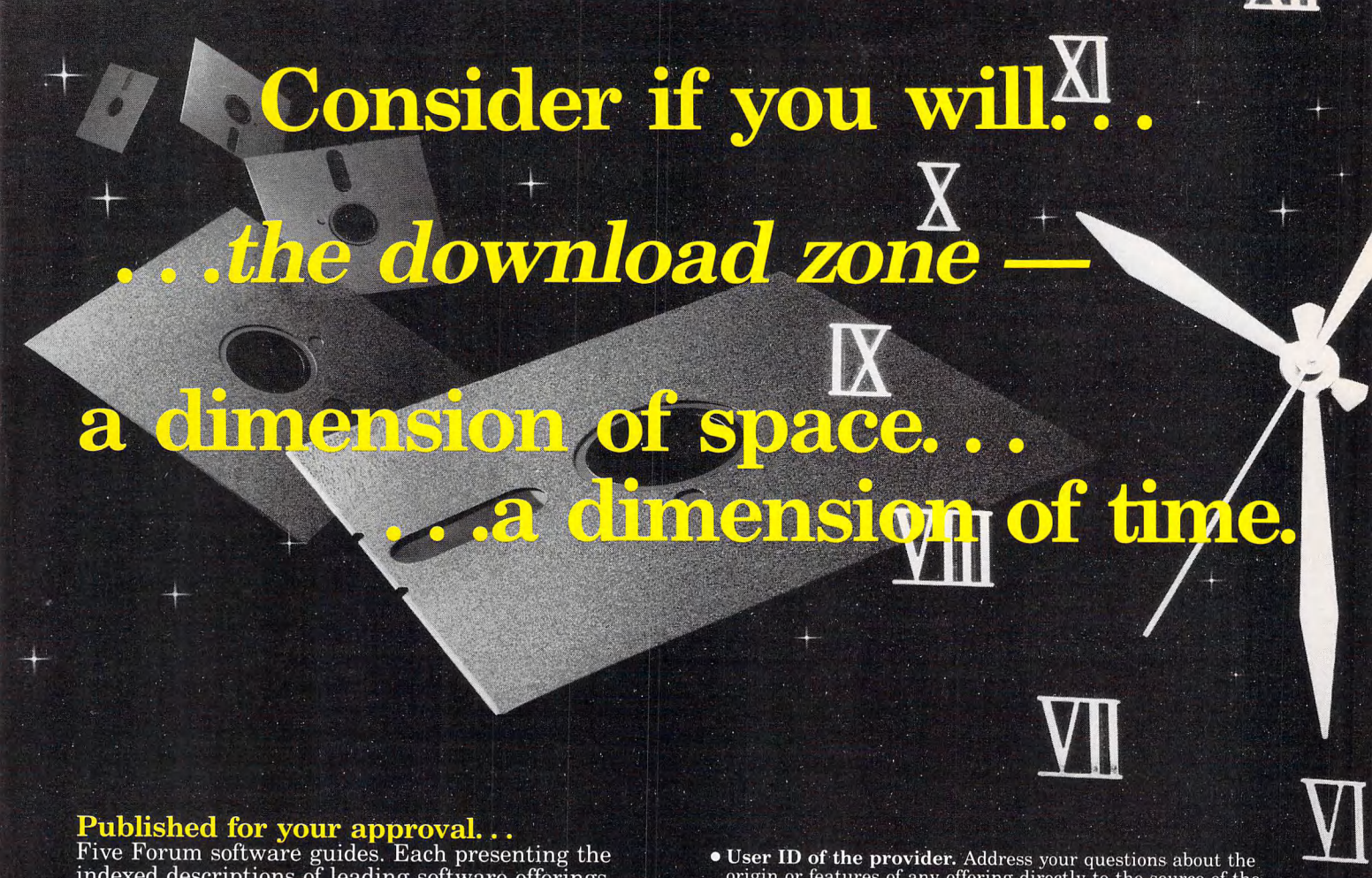

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Variety of Programs Added to Forums

The data libraries in CompuServe's forums are filled with thousands of programs and textfiles. The following are only a few of the files uploaded to data libraries in recent months.

For a more up-to-date list of uploads, check the "Uploads" column in *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-3700 at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service. New columns are added twice monthly.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE EXPERT FORUM
(GO AIE-100)

Learning Aid—A program from Mountain View Press for MS-DOS computers to help you learn the MVP FORTH language. Compatible with the textbook *Getting Started in FORTH*. Includes executable file, source code and documentation. File MVP4TH.ARC in Data Library 7.

Famous Puzzle—A simulation of a famous puzzle written in Turbo Prolog for MS-DOS computers. Fifteen numbered tiles and a blank space are enclosed in a four-by-four frame. The object is to bring them into proper sequence by moving one tile at a time. File TILE15.ARC in Data Library 14.

AMIGA FORUM
(GO AMIGAFORUM)

Terminal Program—A new version of ATERM for the Amiga that supports Sliding Windows Kermit Protocol and has a chat mode (split screen for conferencing). Optional clock included. File ATERM7.EXE in Data Library 4.

Text Editor—Fits on a RAM disk or on machines with a small amount of memory. Contains 80-column display and inverse video lines. File TEMACS.ARC in Data Library 9.

ASHTON-TATE FORUM
(GO ASHFORUM)

dBaseIII Aid—A program to allow you to page backward and forward through screen displays in dBaseIII Plus. File PAGES.ARC in Data Library 2.

ATARI 16-BIT FORUM
(GO ATARI16)

New Flights—Six scenario files for the Atari ST (color) version of *Flight Simulator*. You need the original program to run them. File FSIM.ARC in Data Library 1.

ATARI 8-BIT FORUM
(GO ATARI8)

Golf Program—A golf-scoring program for those who want to keep records of their yearly play. File TENSCO.XMO in Data Library 0.

AVIATION FORUM
(GO AVSIG)

Tracking Program—A Macintosh application that runs with Excel and can be used for tracking all time, cycle and dated components on an aircraft. Written by Doug Boston of Calgary, Alberta. File AEROST.PIT in Data Library 9.

COLOR SIG
(GO COCO)

Smart Terminal Program—Greg-E-Term, a smart terminal program written by Greg Miller for the disk-based CoCo I or II with 64K, or a disk-based CoCo III. File GETERM.BIN in Data Library 4. See also GEHELP.TXT, GETUM1.DOC, GETUM2.DOC and GETC10.BIN in the same data library.

Menu/Loader Program—This program by Jim Peasley allows you to add a description file to all of your disks. Copy, rename or kill files from the menu or load/execute any program with one keystroke. File DIR.BAS in Data Library 5 or the 40-column version, DIR40.BAS, in Data Library 8.

COMMODORE ART/GAMES
(GO CBMART)

Yahtzee—The *Yahtzee* game for the Commodore 128 in 80 columns. Up to seven people can play at one time. File YAHTZE.IMG in Data Library 11.

COMPUTER CLUB
(GO CLUB)

Adventure—An *Adventure* game for the Sanyo (file EAMON1.ARC in Data Library 2), and a series of BASIC documentation files that can be used to create your own *EAMON* adventures (file EAMON2.ARC in Data Library 2). Both require Sanyo BASIC. No video board required.

Communications Program—A version of the IMP communications program for the Eagle II. File IMP.LBR in Data Library 3.

EDUCATION FORUM
(GO EDFORUM)

Funding Resources—A textfile that describes a variety of resource information sources that can be used to identify potential funding sources for sponsors of innovative educational projects. File GRANTS.INF in Data Library 3.

FAMILY COMPUTING FORUM
(GO FAMFORUM)

Reviews—Summaries of all software reviews published in *Family Computing* magazine since 1983. All files are located in Data Library 1. The file INTRO.TXT describes how the reviews are arranged and the other files are each devoted to one of the major computing families: Amiga (AMG.RE.TXT), Adam (ADM-RE.TXT), Commodore (CMD-RE.TXT), TI-99 (TI-RE.TXT), Macintosh (MAC-RE.TXT), IBM (IBM-RE.TXT), Tandy (TRS-RE.TXT) and Atari (ATR-RE.TXT).

GAMERS' FORUM
(GO GAMERS)

Blockade—A real-time territory control action game for the IBM and compatibles. Color graphics required. Blockade is for one or two human players and up to five additional computer players. File BLOCK2.ARC in Data Library 7.

HEWLETT-PACKARD PC FORUM
(GO HP100)

Fixes—A collection of utilities and patches to correct some of the compatibility problems in the A.01.02 (original) version of the firmware and RAM BIOS of the Vectra PC. These patches are not required if you have Version A.01.05 or later. File VECFIX.ARC in Data Library 3.

IBM SOFTWARE FORUM
(GO IBMSW)

New ARC Program—An update of ARC-E.COM, Vern Buerg's famous utility for extracting archived files. This version corrects some minor problems and improves performance over earlier versions. File ARC-E.COM in Data Library 3.

MICROSOFT FORUM
(GO MSOFT)

Resident BASIC—A program that allows compiled BASIC programs to become memory resident and "callable" by using a hot key. File STAYRE.ARC in Data Library 2.

SPACE EDUCATION FORUM
(GO SPACEED)

Russian Visit—Transcript of an online conference with Judy White, Kentucky Teacher in Space finalist, in which she described a trip to the Soviet Union as part of a student exchange program. File WHITE.CO in Data Library 7.

David Peyton co-authored How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe. *His CompuServe User ID number is 76703,244.*

Go Mall

A GUIDE TO COMPUSERVE'S ELECTRONIC MALL

MARCH/APRIL 1987

WELCOME SEVEN NEW MERCHANTS TO THE MALL!

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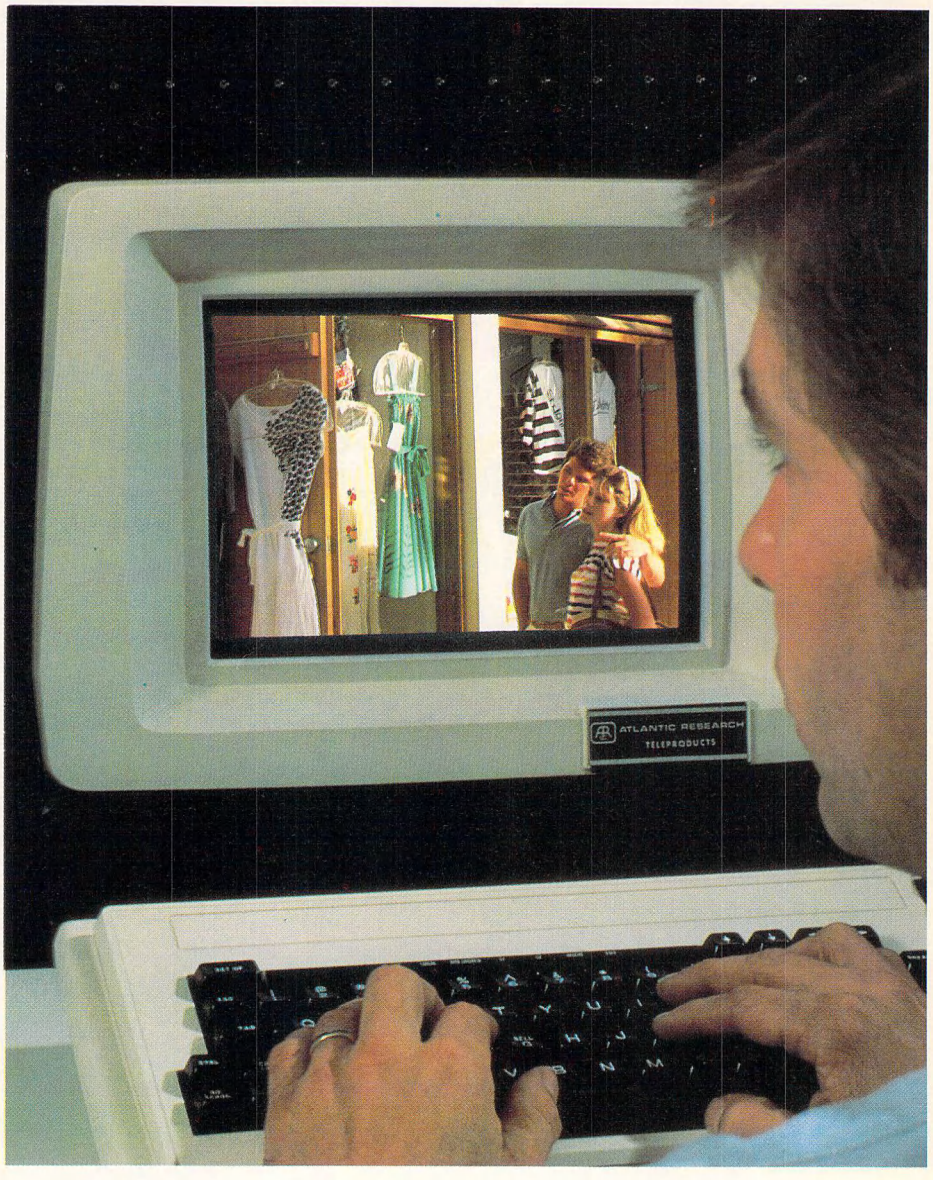


THE ELECTRONIC MALL™

ENJOY FOUR WEEKENDS OF FREE SHOPPING AT SELECT MALL STORES

DEAR SHOPPER

Welcome to the premier issue of *GO MALL*!

We had been periodically publishing *Electronically Yours* and decided it needed a new look. The new look is here with *GO MALL* and we hope to expand our coverage with future issues.

Now appearing bi-monthly in *Online Today*, *GO MALL* is your guide to CompuServe's Electronic Mall. Inside you'll discover announcements of new Mall merchants, news of seasonal sales and Mall promotions, and much more. The "Discoveries" section showcases an eclectic selection of Mall merchandise. "Spotlight" focuses on one special Mall merchant. "Fun and Games" announces new contests.

If you've already discovered the pleasures of shopping for merchandise and information electronically, we hope *GO MALL* will keep you abreast of all that's happening at The Mall. And if you've never visited The Mall, or haven't been by lately, we hope we can entice you to come in for a visit.

There's no better time to visit The Mall than March because we've designated March as "Get To Know The Mall" month. Each weekend in March we're eliminating the connect charges for a different group of Mall stores, giving you the opportunity to stroll The Mall at your leisure.

We hope the premier issue of *GO MALL* gives you a taste of things to come. Future issues will include expanded coverage of Mall stores and events and letters from you, The Electronic Mall shopper. We invite your comments. Write to:

Editor
GO MALL
CompuServe Incorporated
5000 Arlington Centre Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43220

Or send your thoughts in an EasyPlex message to 70007,1610.

Again, welcome to *GO MALL* and to the world of electronic shopping.

Cindy Morgan
Editor

GOINGS ON

AT&T's Search Contest Continues in The Mall

And don't forget AT&T's Search Contest. Every month a new contest will be featured, giving you another chance to win a package of five $5 AT&T long distance gift certificates. For details, type GO ATT.

TaxTime at The Mall

Remember, TaxTime at The Mall continues through April 15. For tax-related software, books and investment opportunities, type GO TAX.

GO Mall

GO MALL, March/April 1987

Volume 1 Number 1

GO MALL, published bimonthly by the Electronic Mall™ a service of the Advanced Media Group, CompuServe Incorporated. For more information call (513) 296-4850, or EasyPlex 70007,1610. Editors: Mary Mitchell, Cindy Morgan and Karli Kohrs.

Express Music CDs' Mt. Everest Top 10 Contest Announced

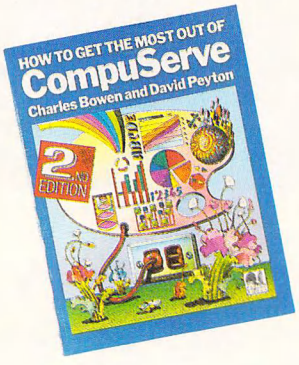
Express Music CDs announces the Mt. Everest Top 10 Contest. This is your chance to win a collection of 10 CDs of your choice. For details, type GO EMC.

Announcing The Electronic Mall's Scavenger Hunt!

Enter The Mall's Scavenger Hunt and win a $12.50 usage credit. Details inside.

Merchants Offer Free Gifts

For more news on free gifts and special offers, see stories about First Texas Savings, Merle Norman, Aaxion Tech and The Small Computer Book Club, all in this issue of *GO MALL*!



THE ELECTRONIC MAILBOX

Dear Software Discounters of America:

I just joined the Discount Disk Club last week. You had the software I needed at prices I could afford. Also, it's easy (and fun) to order through CompuServe! I'm sure we'll get more programs with great savings in the future. Thanks for the Discount Disk Club introductory offer of 10 disks, too!

Woodrow W.

Dear Coffee Emporium:

I am enjoying the chocolate-almond coffee I received from you a few weeks ago. Your information and prompt service are appreciated. Keep up the good work! Future purchases are guaranteed!

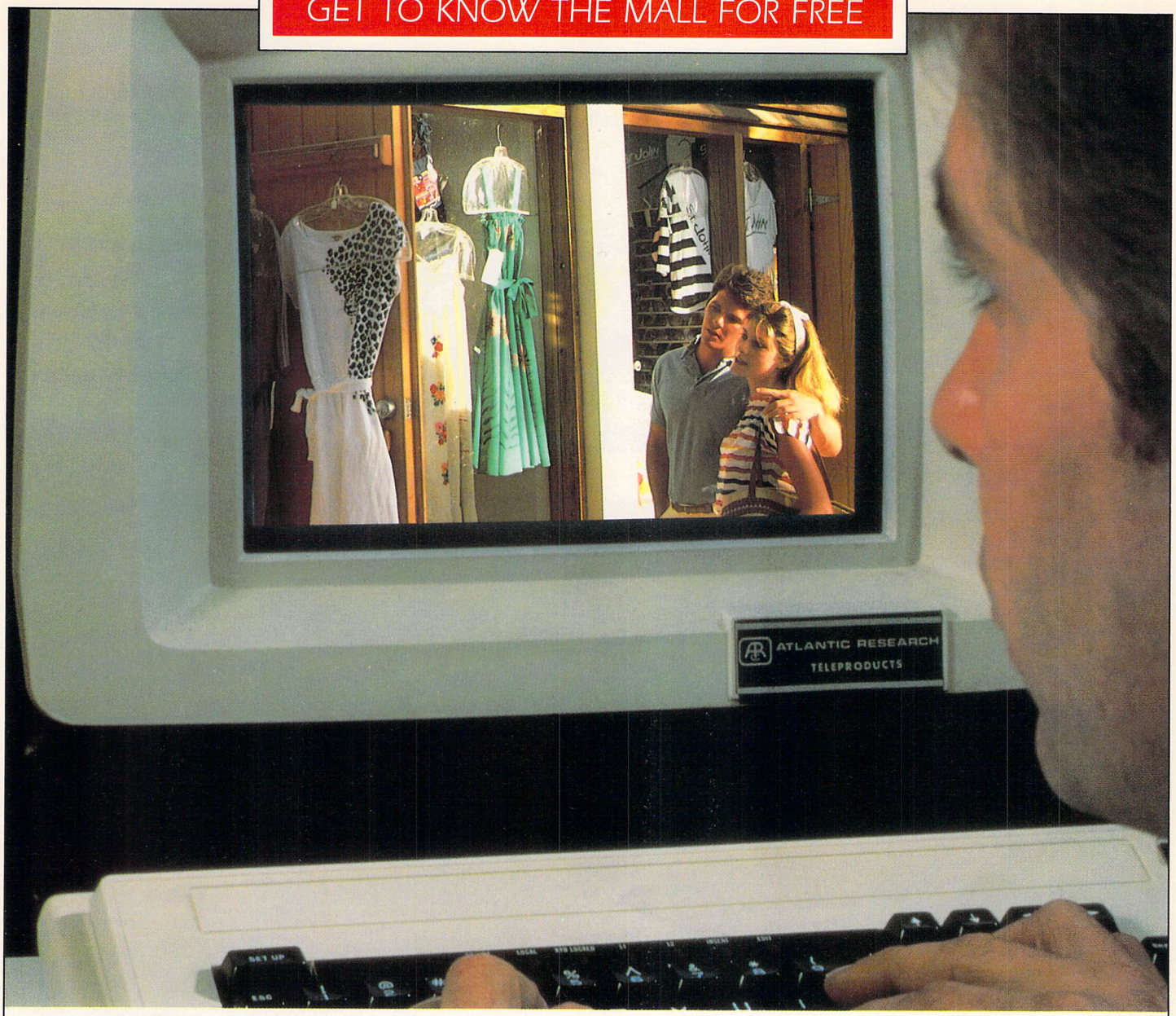
Stephen B.

Dear Mall Manager:

I want to inform you of the prompt response that Investment Software gave me concerning the problem of the "order confirmation." This merchant was polite and courteous and resolved the problem promptly. I hope all of your merchants handle their customers in the same polite manner.

Fred H.

GET TO KNOW THE MALL FOR FREE



ENJOY FREE SHOPPING AT SELECT STORES EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY IN MARCH!

March is the time to get to know The Electronic Mall™ Every weekend in March a different selection of Mall stores will be free of connect charges, giving shoppers the opportunity to explore these stores at their leisure. Over the course of the month, subscribers will have the chance to visit every Mall store—for free!

During the first weekend in March, from midnight Friday March 6 until midnight Sunday March 8, subscribers can browse for free in 20 Mall stores including AT&T; Computer Express; Coffee Emporium; Sears, Roebuck and Co.; Simon David; and Neiman-Marcus.

Another selection of stores will be free the second weekend including Bloomingdale's By Mail, L'eggs/Hanes Outlet, Chevy Showroom, Lincoln Manor Baskets and Waldenbooks. During the third weekend in March, subscribers can shop for free at American Express, Woodstock Leather, Rin Robyn Pool & Patio, World of Computers and more. During the final weekend in March, Milkins Jewelers, Dean Witter Reynolds, TSR Hobby Shop, Air France and many more stores will be free!

For a complete schedule of free Electronic Mall shopping during March, type GO MALL. And remember to check "This Week's Mall News" every week in March—and every week of the year—for news about Mall merchants, special sales and seasonal promotions.

WINDOWS ON THE MALL

FORE!

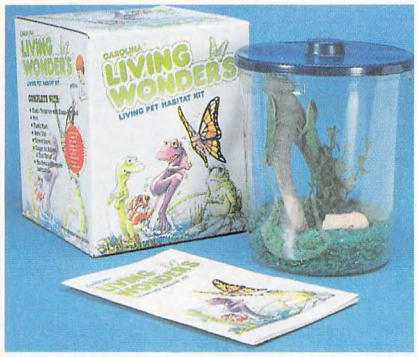
Golf's Best Software: The World-Famous Pinehurst Course No. 2 from Carolina Health & Fitness (GO HF)

Golf Desk Set from Executive Engraver (GO EX)

Callaway Putter combines high technology and fine workmanship from Neiman-Marcus (GO NM)

Golf Ball Truffles from Neiman-Marcus (GO NM)

Living Wonders Chameleon from Carolina Health & Fitness (GO HF)



Eureka Express Vacuum for spring cleaning from Vacuum Advance (GO VCS)

Rolex Watches for men and ladies from Milkins Jewelers (GO MJ)

Birthstone Rings for March (aquamarine) and April (diamond) from Milkins Jewelers (GO MJ)

Silk and Satin Sleepwear from Inside*Outside (GO IO)

Dow Jones Glasses from Neiman-Marcus (GO NM)

Hawaiian Floral Arrangements from Hawaiian Isle (GO HI)

HOW TO ORDER FROM THE MALL

Shopping The Mall

Ordering from The Electronic Mall is easy. Each time you enter a Mall store, a personal order file, much like an electronic shopping cart, is opened for you. Browse a store's database. When you see a product you would like to buy, type the letter "O" and the order will be placed in your file, or shopping cart; this process is much like selecting an item from a store's shelf.

You can order directly from the product description page; there is no need to return to a store's top menu. You can order one item from a store or you can order a dozen items. When you type "O," the system does not complete your order; it only registers your desire to make a purchase. The order process is the same for every Mall merchant but methods of payment and delivery may differ.

Checking Out

To complete your order, you must "check out." You can do this by typing CHECKOUT, the GO command of the next store you wish to visit or any command that takes you elsewhere on CompuServe. This tells the system that you are ready to complete the order process and triggers the next step. You now have two options:

1. You can cancel your entire order by typing EXIT.

2. You can complete your order by responding to a series of prompts for additional information, such as quantity, name and address.

When you've supplied the necessary information, you will receive an order summary. You now have the chance to change part or all of your order. For example, if you've ordered three record albums but decide you only want two of them, you can delete one album from your order. Or maybe you've realized that you would like to have your order shipped to your office instead of your home. You can make that change, too.

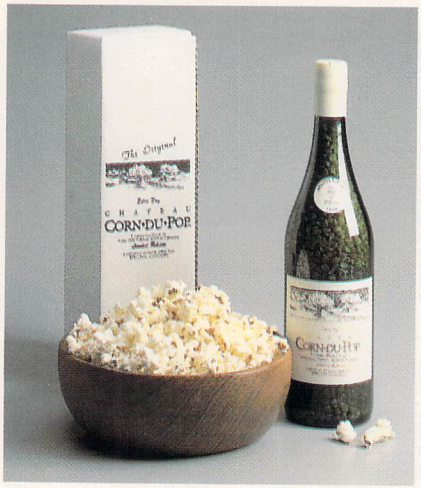
Once you've made any changes, you again will get the chance to review your order. When you confirm the order as correct, you will receive an order confirmation number. *At this point, your order is complete.* It is sent electronically to the Mall merchant's CompuServe mailbox. The merchant then retrieves and processes the order.

WINDOWS ON THE MALL

Hula Bears available for ordering from Hawaiian Isle (GO HI)

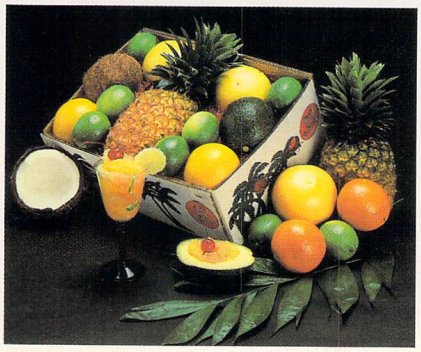
FOR GOURMETS

Chateau Corn du Pop from Simon David (GO SIM)



The MacArthur Smoke House Breakfast Gift Pack from Lincoln Manor Baskets (GO LM)

A Tropical Luau from Florida Fruit Shippers (GO FFS)



Fresh Florida Crab Claws from Florida Fruit Shippers (GO FFS)

Mammoth Texas Pecans from Simon David (GO SIM)

Dried Mushroom Sampler includes Oyster mushrooms, Shiitake mushrooms and Morels mushrooms from Simon David (GO SIM)

STAR GAZING

TellStar I & II Computer Programs turn your computer into a planetarium from Cosmic Concepts (GO CC)

Jr. Astronomer Planetarium from Hobby Center Toys (GO HC)

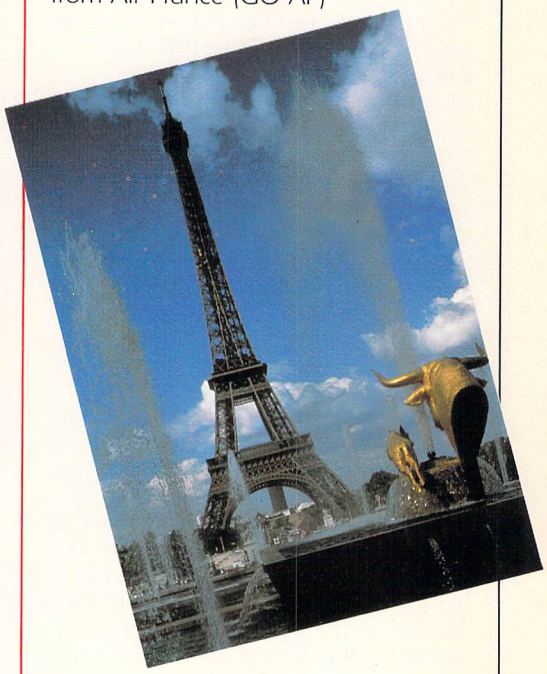
Star Frontiers® boxed games and accessories from TSR Hobby Shop (GO TSR)

FARAWAY FANTASIES

Rand McNally Video Guides: for Central Florida, Colorado ski resorts, New York City and San Francisco from Magic Castle Video (GO MV)

Denali National Park: Alaska video of nature's never-ending beauty on the slopes of majestic Mt. McKinley from Alaska Teleshopper (GO AK)

Springtime In Paris: Information and bookings on tours and packages. Videos to borrow before you go and a free map of Paris to take along! from Air France (GO AF)



Merle Norman Offers Spring Gift Package

Visit Merle Norman Beauty Products in March and take advantage of the Spring Promises Promotion. Beginning March 1, make any purchase of $12 or more at Merle Norman's Mall store and for only $2 more you'll receive Merle Norman's special Spring Promises package. This springtime gift package includes a special 1.5 oz. cleansing bar with sponge; Fresh 'N Fair 2 oz.; Moisture lotion 1 oz.; Lip Stay .2 oz; and a full retail size of Merle Norman's long-lasting performance lipstick in Cafe' Pink. This package has a retail value of more than $17, but it's yours for only $2 with any purchase of $12 or more. This offer is good through March 31 or until supplies run out.

At Merle Norman's Mall store you also can request a free flyer announcing the new colors for spring! To take advantage of this special offer, and to discover the shades of spring, type GO MN.

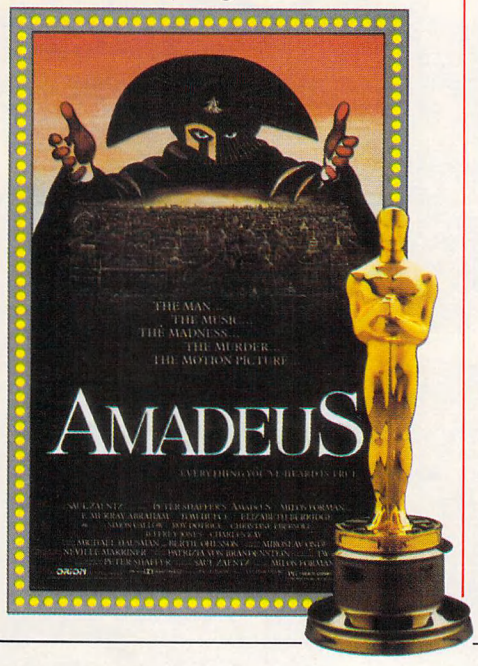
Easter Offerings

Don't forget that Easter is April 19 this year! Many Mall merchants feature food, flowers and other offerings for this holiday. For festive Easter floral arrangements, visit Walter Knoll Florist (GO WK) or Fifth Avenue Shopper (GO FTH). Simon David (GO SIM) offers a selection of holiday meats including Edwards Virginia Ham, Simon David's Country Ham and Simon David's Smoked Boneless Ham. In Simon David's Sweet Shoppe you'll discover everything from chocolate truffles to gummy bears, all great for filling Easter baskets. Neiman-Marcus (GO NM) suggests tucking Godiva chocolates in someone's Easter basket this year. And Waldenbooks (GO WB) recommends the soft and fuzzy classic *Pat The Bunny* for any child on your list.

Finally, to give a truly unique Easter or holiday basket this year, visit Lincoln Manor Baskets (GO LM). You can choose from custom-sized baskets including "The Ice Cream Lover's Basket," "The Wine Connoisseur's Basket" and "Breakfast In Bed!"

Magic Castle Video Presents the Movies

In March America turns its attention to the movies as Hollywood prepares for its annual Academy Awards. In a salute to Oscar, we're putting Mall merchant Magic Castle Video in the Spotlight this month.



For two years Magic Castle Video has offered CompuServe subscribers a wide selection of video and laser discs and Pioneer audio/video equipment. Magic Castle Video's products are backed by prompt, courteous service.

Magic Castle's Bill Moreland says, "The services we offer through The Electronic Mall have been a learning process and a lot of fun. We've become known for providing quick service and for finding hard to locate items." He adds, "That, in turn, has meant that we now have video friends all over the world."

Magic Castle invites you to explore its extensive online catalog featuring hundreds of video (beta and VHS) and laser disc selections. Organized by category for easy browsing, Magic Castle offers you many Academy Award winning films. Among the titles VCR owners can order are *Amadeus* (Best Picture 1984), *An American in Paris* (Best Picture 1951), *Gone With the Wind* (Best Picture 1939), *Mutiny on the Bounty* (Best Picture 1935) and *West Side Story* (Best Picture 1961). Laser disc player owners can choose from selections such as *All the King's Men* (Best Picture 1949), *Gandhi* (Best Picture 1982), *Out of Africa* (Best Picture 1985) and *It Happened One Night* (Best Picture 1934).

Movie mavens also will discover offerings in categories such as children's, comedies, documentaries, musicals, romance, and science fiction and fantasy. Choose an all-time classic such as *Casablanca*, *Rebel Without a Cause* or *National Velvet*, or select a more recent release such as *Ran*, *Top Gun* or *Blade Runner*. Also featured are exercise videos, music videos and special programs such as The National Geographic series and Rand McNally's video guides.

Finally, if you don't see what you're looking for in the online catalog, Magic Castle invites you to send a query via EasyPlex. Magic Castle stocks thousands of titles in all and probably has the title you're looking for.

As America prepares to salute Oscar, The Electronic Mall salutes Magic Castle Video. GO MV and let Magic Castle take you to the movies.

TaxTime Database Answers Questions

April 15 is fast approaching! Now is the time to visit TaxTime at The Mall, a special database designed to assist you in preparing your 1986 tax returns and selecting investment opportunities. At TaxTime at The Mall you'll discover tax-related software for all types of personal computers, a selection of books and magazines on money, investments and taxes, and news on a variety of merchants offering IRAs and other investment opportunities.

Several merchants will answer your tax-related questions. Use Dean Witter Reynolds' "Open Line for Questions" when you are confused by today's complex world of investments. Dean Witter invites you to discuss your tax-related concerns. To take advantage of this free, no-obligation service, type GO DWR.

Dean Witter also is offering you free and with no obligation "The Dean Witter Tax Reform Guide," a comprehensive guide to what you must know and do now that the rules have changed.

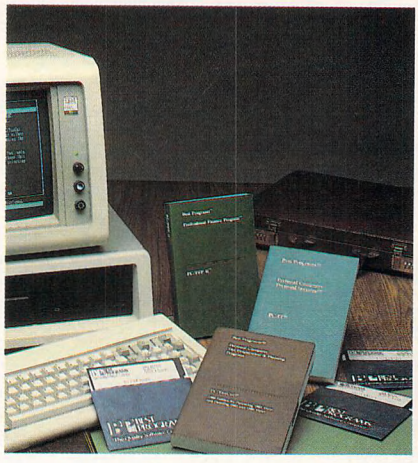
The Equitable also invites your tax-related questions. You can "Ask The Online Agent" questions about investments, IRAs and tax shelters. The Equitable experts will respond via EasyPlex. There are no obligations and the service is free. At The Equitable's Mall store you also can take a short quiz to find out how much you can save on taxes with an IRA. To "Ask The Online Agent" or to take the IRA Tax Quiz, type GO EL.

CompuServe subscribers are invited to type GO TAX for a database of tax-related products and services. TaxTime at The Mall will be available through April 15. This special database features news on everything from the Business Incorporating Guide's (GO INC) online incorporation services to Great Lakes Business Forms' (GO GL) selection of tax forms that you can order online!

A member of the Sears Financial Network
DEAN WITTER
Consumer Markets

Save on IBM Tax Software

Investment Software has added Best Programs' PC/Tax Cut (IBM) to its online catalog. This comprehensive tax calculation program covers the step-by-step preparation and printing of the 1040 and 21 other forms. Originally $195, it now is specially priced at only $95! To order it, type GO IS.



WELCOME TO
SHOWROOM THA

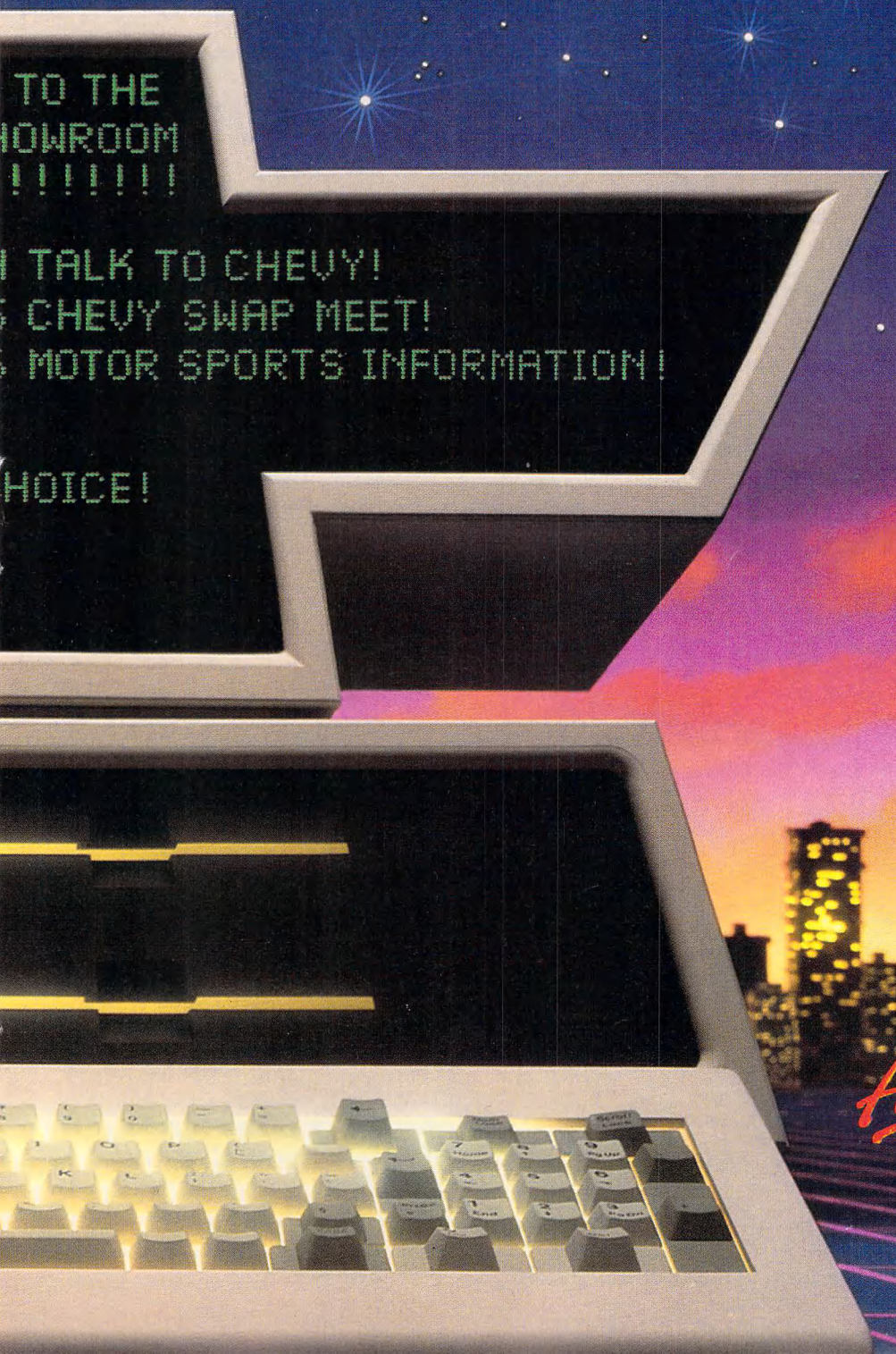
INTRODUCING THE CHEVY SHOWROOM, NOW IN THE ELECTRONIC MALL. We're on-line 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to serve you in CompuServe's Electronic Mall. We've got a lot of good information for you, and it's as simple to get as GO CHV!

IT'S MORE THAN A SHOWROOM. Of course we really can't show you cars and trucks, but we can tell you all about them. And that's not all... we have some other valuable services you're going to like.

PRICE OUT A CHEVY TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS. We'll not only help you find the Chevy that best meets your needs, we'll also give you Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Prices. That includes option prices too! So you can price out a Chevy to fit your budget...and even order FREE catalogs!

DISK DRIVE A CHEVY. You can even order a FREE software program called Chevy Tech ($3.00 for shipping). Not only do you get specifications and prices, you also get a financing program that allows you to project monthly payments.

O THE CHEVY
AT NEVER CLOSES.



TALK TO US...WE'VE GOT THE ANSWERS. Want to know how many Chevys were built in 1946? Or when the first Corvette was offered? Ask us on-line, and we'll get back to you with answers for most anything relating to Chevrolet cars and trucks.

BUY OR SELL CARS, TRUCKS AND PARTS. It's called the Chevy Swap Meet, and it's the place to go when you want to sell your '55 Chevy engine block. Or buy or trade. It's an ideal way to get in touch with other Chevy enthusiasts.

KEEP UP WITH THE CHEVY MOTOR SPORTS CIRCUIT. Find out about upcoming races and events. Get dates and locations for CART, IROC, NASCAR Winston Cup, SCCA, IMSA and more!

LISTEN TO THE HEARTBEAT. Today's Chevrolet is keeping a commitment to giving you the kinds of cars and trucks you want. The Heartbeat of America.

GO CHV NOW! There's a wealth of information awaiting you in the Chevy Showroom. Come join us for all the fun and practicality of it. Log on now!

THE *Heartbeat* OF AMERICA

TODAY'S CHEVROLET

Circle 11 on the Reader Service Form

New! Online Pet Supply Shop

Now there's a pet supply shop at The Mall! New England Habitats, a specialist in services for the professional dog or cat breeder, now offers you the same quality products at discount prices online. You'll find everything you need to keep your pet happy and healthy.

Browse New England Habitats' online catalog for a selection of products for dogs, cats, tropical fish, birds, reptiles and other pets. Cat owners will find everything from the Booda-Box Litter Box (the original odor-free litter box) to Cosmic Catnip to a cat's playpen. Dog owners can shop the Canine Corner for flea sprays, shampoos, grooming aids and more. Especially recommended is Eukanuba dog food. There are filters and air pumps for aquariums, parrot perchs, parakeet cages, rabbit hutches and three-story hamster cages!

New England Habitats also invites you to order a print catalog full of items for every kind of pet. The $4 cost is rebated with your first order.

For one-stop pet supply shopping, type GO NH.

New! H&R Block Opens Online

H&R Block Inc., founded more than 30 years ago by Henry and Richard Bloch, now prepares about 10 percent of all individual tax returns filed in the United States each year. During the 1986 tax filing season H&R Block operated 8,954 income tax service offices in the United States, Canada and 13 foreign countries.

Visit H&R Block's new Mall store and discover:

- A brief history of H&R Block
- An introduction to tax reform, including highlights of the new tax law for 1987
- 38 tax reform items available to download and 38 tax reform items listed separately
- Information on how you can obtain "Your Personal Tax Forecaster," a written analysis that will help you understand how the new tax law will affect you
- Information on a variety of tax record-keeping books, all available free at your local H&R Block office

To discover all that H&R Block offers you, type GO HRB.

New! Computer Books, Supplies Offered Online

Aaxion Tech Network, a small group of "techies" who keep up with the leading edge of technology, offers you a comprehensive selection of computer books, supplies and accessories.

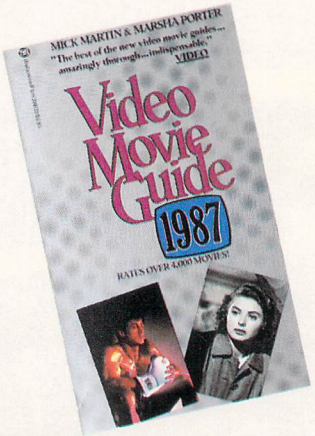
At this new Mall store you'll discover dozens of books that can help you get the most out of your personal computer system. Topics covered include databases, programming techniques, spreadsheets, and word processing and operating systems. You also can order system accessories online including printer ribbons for the Apple Imagewriter, Epson, NEC and Okidata, and custom vinyl dust covers to protect your computer and electronic equipment.

Aaxion Tech Network invites you to visit today and request your free copy of the complete catalog of products. And to welcome you, Aaxion Tech Network will send you a free gift with any purchase!

To find the latest in computer books and accessories, and to safeguard your personal computer and electronic investments with custom covers, type GO ATN.

New! Video Movie Guide 1987

Ballantine Books has just released the *Video Movie Guide 1987*. From *The Ape Man* to *Zelig*, this guide describes and rates (on a scale from "turkey" to five stars!) more than 4,000 of the most widely available videos. Organized by category, this comprehensive guide also is cross-indexed by director, star and title. To order your copy, type GO BAL.



New! Dutchess CompuLease Offers Auto Leasing Plans

Now you can arrange to lease the auto of your choice for two, three or even five years at new Mall merchant Dutchess CompuLease, an affiliate of Dutchess Imported Cars. Leasing a car gives you the benefits of lower monthly costs and the advantages of driving a superior car. And leasing from Dutchess CompuLease gives you the added convenience of making the arrangements from the comfort of your living room!

Through a nationwide network of cooperating auto dealers, Dutchess CompuLease will arrange for you to lease the car of your choice. This merchant can even arrange for delivery of the car to your doorstep! At the end of your lease, you have the option of purchasing the vehicle, returning the auto with no further obligation or, better yet, selling the vehicle and keeping the profits normally enjoyed by the dealer. Leasing has never made more sense!

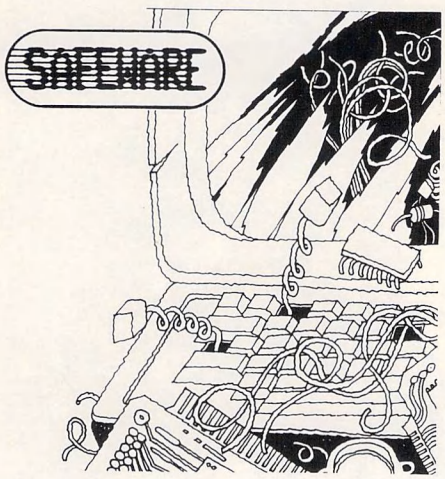
For more information on how to lease the car of your dreams or to begin the leasing process by completing an online lease credit application, type GO GO today. Remember, it is necessary to complete all sections of the application before Dutchess CompuLease can process your leasing agreement.

New! Firm Offers Insurance for Computer Owners

Safeware, The Insurance Agency Inc., the nation's leading firm specializing in insurance protection for computers and high-tech electronic equipment, is now open at The Mall. Since its founding in 1982, Safeware has written the coverage for more than $1 billion worth of hardware, peripherals, media and software. If your computer is important to you and you can't afford to lose it, Safeware computer insurance is for you.

Many traditional policies may offer only partial coverage, paying only a fraction of the cost to replace damaged or stolen equipment. Safeware's pioneering product, the Computer Owners Policy, provides comprehensive coverage including fire, theft, power surges, accidental damage and even natural disasters such as lightning, earthquakes and floods. For as little as $39 a year, you can get blanket coverage for the full replacement cost less a low $50 deductible! Overseas coverage also is available. If you rent or lease computers to others, Safeware has a special policy for you.

Safeware's Mall store offers complete details and a toll-free 800 number is provided. There's a complete online form for immediate application. For the first name in high-tech loss protection, type GO SAF.



New! First Texas Offers Free Gift to Subscribers

First Texas Savings Association is proud to bring CompuServe subscribers the best in financial products and services—and rates!

Texas is one of the most competitive financial markets in the United States. This competition keeps interest rates higher than almost anywhere in the country. Compare the rates at First Texas and see for yourself!

First Texas is a leader among financial institutions in the Lone Star State. Established in 1894, First Texas is part of the largest savings and loan holding company headquartered in Texas, with assets of nearly $9 billion and one of the strongest net worth positions in the nation. Not only can you rely on the strength and stability of First Texas, but also all of your deposits are federally insured by the FSLIC up to $100,000.

At First Texas you'll find the financial products you want with highly competitive rates: CDs, IRAs and Money Market deposit accounts. And with First Texas' tiered rate structure, you can be rewarded with even higher rates for larger investments in many products. Also, you have an exceptional range of terms to choose from on CDs and retirement accounts.

Questions? First Texas' telebanking experts are only a toll-free call away. They are trained to make long-distance banking easy and comfortable.

Now you can win a free calculator just for looking over what First Texas has to offer. Hidden among descriptions of First Texas' rates and products are five letters that spell a special word. For a limited time, a solar-powered calculator will be given to anyone who tells First Texas what that word is. (One calculator per CompuServe membership please!) This calculator, no bigger than a credit card, has memory, an 8-digit display and all standard functions.

To compare First Texas' rates, products and services, and for your chance to win a free calculator, type GO FT.

FIRST TEXAS®

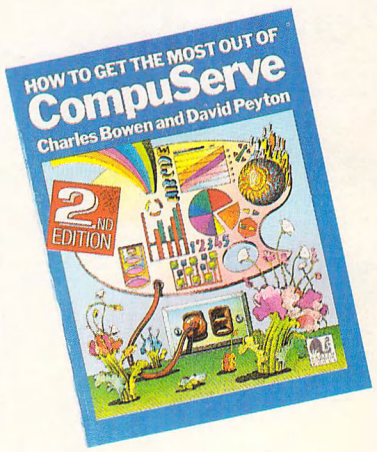
SMALL COMPUTER BOOK CLUB

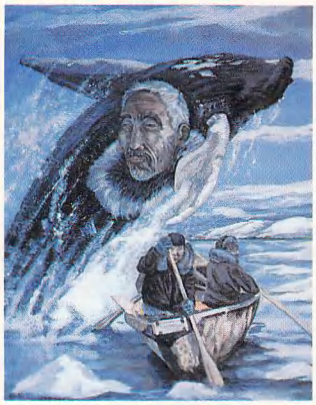
New! Small Computer Book Club Offers Free Welcome Gift

As a special welcome offer to CompuServe subscribers, for a limited time the Small Computer Book Club is offering *How To Get the Most Out of CompuServe*, a $16.95 retail value, for free to all new members who enroll online. To join the club simply select any book for only $4.95. Choose from *The Encyclopedia of Computer Science and Engineering*, the four-volume *Microcomputing Library* and the three-volume *Online Communications Library* (values up to $95.40). Each selection is yours for only $4.95. And remember, *How To Get the Most Out of CompuServe* is yours for free!

Once you join, the club membership entitles you to continued savings. Regular offerings are discounted by up to 30 percent off publishers' prices and you immediately become eligible for the Bonus Book Plan, offering savings of up to 65 percent!

For details on club membership, and to join today and receive your free gift, type GO BK.

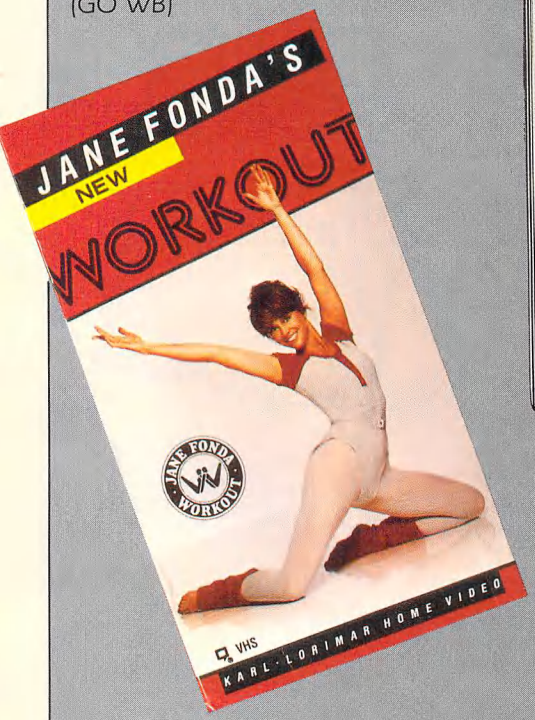


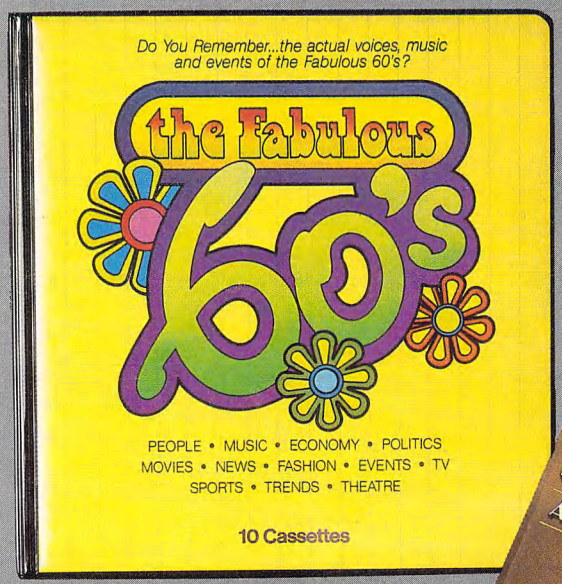


Hunting Whales Limited Edition Print of 450 by Alaskan Artist Kevin L. Carpenter from Alaska Teleshopper (GO AK)

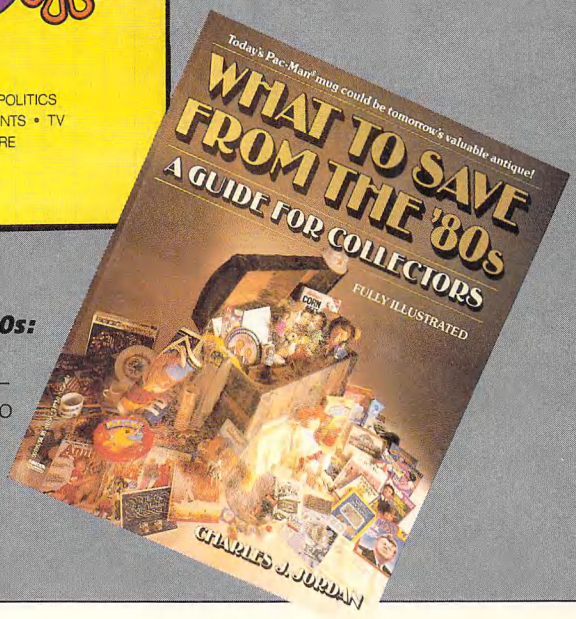
Sansui Digital CD Player from American Express (GO AXM)

Jane Fonda's New Workout (Beta and VHS) from Waldenbooks (GO WB)




Do You Remember...the actual voices, music and events of the Fabulous 60's?
the Fabulous 60's
PEOPLE • MUSIC • ECONOMY • POLITICS
MOVIES • NEWS • FASHION • EVENTS • TV
SPORTS • TRENDS • THEATRE
10 Cassettes

The Fabulous 60s: Do you remember...The actual voices, music and events of the 1960s in 10 audio cassettes from Waldenbooks (GO WB)


Today's Pac-Man® mug could be tomorrow's valuable antique!
WHAT TO SAVE FROM THE '80s
A GUIDE FOR COLLECTORS
FULLY ILLUSTRATED
CHARLES J. JORDAN

What To Save From the 80s: Advice on What To Save, When and Where to Sell— everything from Rubik's Cube to Royal Wedding memorabilia from Ballantine Books (GO BAL)

Canon PC-24 Copier from American Express (GO AXM)

Bistro Flatware from American Express (GO AXM)

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Over-The-Hill Balloon and Black Flower Arrangement for that 30th, 40th or 50th Birthday from Walter Knoll Florist (GO WK)

Genuine Alligator Belt from Apparel Concepts for Men (GO APC)

Dungeons & Dragons Collectors' Edition from TSR Hobby Shop (GO TSR)

Glow-In-The-Dark Dinosaurs from QualiToy (GO TY)

Cutty Sark Clipper Ship wood ship kit from Hobby Center Toys (GO HC)

Playmobile Pirate Ship from QualiToy (GO TY)

Bop 'N' Wrestle Software regularly $29.95, on sale for $19 from Software Discounters of America (GO SDA)

Tandy 200 Portable 24K Lapsize Computer with six built-in programs from Marymac (GO MM)

Buick Magazine Offers Free High-Tech Brochures

Buick Magazine is offering subscribers seven high-tech brochures for free! To request yours, type GO BU.

And remember, many merchants offer you the opportunity to order print catalogs online, including Carolina Health & Fitness (GO HF), TSR Hobby Shop (GO TSR), Apparel Concepts for Men (GO APC), Heath Co. (GO HTH) and Computer Express (GO CE).

Sears, Roebuck and Co. Offers Two New Catalogs

It's the New Sears Catalog...now in two volumes especially designed for the way you shop. One volume you'll receive is Sears' *1987 Spring/Summer Catalog of Apparel and Home Furnishings*. The other volume is Sears' new *Annual Home, Hardware and Leisure Catalog*, which has a complete assortment of home improvement, automotive, lawn care and leisure products in a single book. You can order both catalogs for only $5 (plus applicable taxes). And inside your apparel and home furnishings volume, you'll find three coupons worth a total of $25 off! Order both catalogs together and you will receive:

- more than 1,550 pages
- a wider selection and outstanding values

To discover Sears' assortment of merchandise, type GO SR.

Ford's Thunderbird Turbo Coupe Named *Motor Trend* Car of the Year!

For the first time in 35 years, one car division has won the prestigious *Motor Trend* "Car of the Year" award for two consecutive years. Last year, the winner was Ford Taurus. This year, Ford Motor Company is proud to announce that the Thunderbird Turbo Coupe has been named the 1987 *Motor Trend* "Car of the Year!"

Motor Trend, one of the nation's most authoritative automotive magazines, selects the Car of the Year on the basis of rigorous testing. Among the outstanding features of the 1987 Thunderbird Turbo Coupe, a world-class touring car, are an intercooled turbo engine, computer-controlled suspension and an anti-lock braking system. For more information on this superior performance automobile, type GO FMC and visit the Ford Electronic Showroom.

Talk to the Tooth Fairy

Tooth Fairyland announces the new Tooth Fairy Hotline, a special hotline exclusively for reporting a child's first tooth loss! Now you can give your child the thrill of a congratulatory message from Tooth Fairyland on the occasion of his or her first tooth loss. For details on how your child can talk to the Tooth Fairy, type GO TF.

Express Music CDs Offers Mt. Everest Top 10 Contest

Imagine...you're flying over the Himalayas in a single-engine plane when suddenly the engine stalls. The plane goes down in a tailspin, but miraculously you survive! Stranded on the top of Mt. Everest, you suddenly discover a CD player. If you could have 10, and only 10 CDs of your choice with you, what would they be? Express Music CDs wants to know!

You're invited to nominate your choice for the Mt. Everest Top 10. Every month Express Music CDs will choose one lucky winner, publish the winner's selection of 10 CDs online and award that subscriber a valuable prize. March's winner gets the complete collection of the 10 CDs he or she selected or an assortment of equal value.

In selecting your top 10 you might want to consult Express Music CDs' print catalog. It has more than 200 pages listing over 23,000 records, tapes and CDs, covering everything from rock to classical and jazz to country.

The new second edition is hot off the press. It is only $10 and includes 12 free monthly updates listing new releases and coupons good for more than $75 in merchandise discounts.

To enter Express Music CDs' Mt. Everest Top 10 Contest, type GO EMC.

Express Music CDs' March Blockbuster

To celebrate the recent expansion of its Mall store, to thank customers for their patronage and to welcome new customers to the compact disc sound experience, Express Music CDs is discounting a newly released Beatles CD for one month only.

During March the new Beatles CD, "A Hard Day's Night," can be yours for only $12.50. This new CD, featuring such classics as "I Should Have Known Better," "Can't Buy Me Love" and "A Hard Day's Night," is a must for every CD collection! To order it, type GO EMC.

The Mall's Scavenger Hunt Offers Competition for Prizes

Because there's more to The Mall than meets the eye, we've created The Mall's Scavenger Hunt. Every issue of *GO MALL* will feature some new contest or game. This month's contest lists a dozen items—all available somewhere at The Mall—and the first 20 subscribers to correctly identify the merchants carrying each item will win $12.50 usage credits.

Here are the first dozen items:

- Your own floating island
- A keyless lock
- Fresh frozen rattlesnake meat
- Atomic balm
- Elephant garlic
- A gold hard hat
- The Source of the Nile
- A giant ant farm
- Winnie the Pooh & Tigger Too
- Fine Young Cannibals
- A lacy leg garter
- A 14 kt. gold toothpick

All subscribers are invited to enter their answers online in the electronic edition of *GO MALL*. Type GO GMO (GO MALL Online) and select The Mall's Scavenger Hunt. You'll find complete rules and regulations and an online entry form.

Happy Hunting! And watch for the next Mall contest in the May/June issue of *GO MALL*.

AT&T Offers Search Contest

All CompuServe subscribers are invited to enter AT&T's online Search Contest. Each month a new contest is featured. Be the first to get all five answers correct and you will win that month's grand prize!

Each month there are five clues scattered throughout the AT&T Search database. The clues are descriptions of products, services or general areas in the AT&T database. The first clue, displayed each month in the contest section of the database, leads you to the second, and the second to the third, and so on. Once you have solved the fifth clue, go back to the contest page and enter your answers for your chance to win.

Remember, the more you get to know AT&T's Search, the easier it will be to win!

What is AT&T's Search? It's an online catalog of state-of-the art communications systems, an exciting contest, prizes, helpful guides and more.

To discover all AT&T has in store for you and for your chance to win, type GO ATT.

MALL DIRECTORY

APPAREL/ACCESSORIES

APC	Apparel Concepts for Men
IO	Inside*Outside
LH	L'eggs/Hanes Outlet
MJ	Milkins Jewelers
BAG	Woodstock Leather Co.

AUTO

BU	Buick Magazine
CHV	Chevy Showroom
GO	Dutchess CompuLease
FMC	Ford Motor Co.

BOOKS

BAL	Ballantine Books
MH	The McGraw-Hill Book Co.
MER	Mercury House
BK	The Small Computer Book Club
WB	Waldenbooks

COMPUTING

ATN	Aaxion Tech Network
CE	Computer Express
GL	Great Lakes Business Forms
HTH	The Heath Co.
IBM	IBM Canada Ltd.
IR	Icon Review
IS	Investment Software
MM	Marymac Industries Inc.
MNU	Menu International
MO	Misco Computer Supplies
SR	Sears, Roebuck and Co.
SDA	Software Discounters of America
WOC	World of Computers

FINANCIAL

BNB	Beneficial National Bank USA
INC	Business Incorporating Guide
CN	Colonial National Bank USA
DWR	Dean Witter Reynolds
EL	Equitable Life
FT	First Texas Savings
HRB	H&R Block
MU	Max Ule Discount Brokerage
SLG	Sun Life Group

GIFTS/GOURMET

AK	Alaska Teleshopper
COF	Coffee Emporium
EX	Executive Engraver
FTH	Fifth Avenue Shopper
FFS	Florida Fruit Shippers
HI	Hawaiian Isle
LM	Lincoln Manor Baskets
SIM	Simon David
TF	Tooth Fairyland
WK	Walter Knoll Florist

HOME/LEISURE

CC	Cosmic Concepts
HC	Hobby Center Toys
MAO	Music Alley Online
NH	New England Habitats
QT	Qualitoy
RR	Rin Robyn Pool & Patio
TSR	TSR Hobby Shop
VCS	Vacuum Advance

MERCHANDISE/ELECTRONICS

ATT	AT&T
ORD	CompuServe Store
CFD	Crutchfield
OM	Office Machines & Supplies
SR	Sears, Roebuck and Co.
SUN	Sunland Camera

ONLINE SERVICES

EF	EF Hutton
GLO	Globalink
NN	NewsNet
OA	Official Airline Guides, Inc.
VL	Videolog

PERIODICALS

CW	CW Communications
DJ	Dow Jones & Co.
ME	EBSCO Magazine Entree
US	USA TODAY

PREMIUM MERCHANTS

AXM	American Express Merchandise
BL	Bloomingdale's By Mail
NM	Neiman-Marcus
TIF	Tiffany & Co.

RECORDS/MOVIES

EMC	Express Music CDs
MV	Magic Castle Video
RC	RCA Direct Marketing

HEALTH/BEAUTY

HF	Carolina Health & Fitness
MN	Merle Norman Cosmetics
VM	VitaMenagerie Discount Vitamins

TRAVEL

AF	Air France
AT	Ameropa Travel

MERLE NORMAN
Spring Promises
SPECIAL CLEANSING BAR, NET WT 1.5 OZ.
FRESH 'N FAIR, 2 FL. OZ.
MOISTURE LOTION, 1 FL. OZ.
PERFORMANCE LIPSTICK, NET WT .16 OZ.
LIP STAY NET WT .20 OZ. • CLEANSING SPONGE
MERLE NORMAN
FRESH 'N FAIR
SKIN FRESHENER
MERLE NORMAN
MOISTURE LOTION

All you have to spring for is $2.

The Merle Norman Spring Promises Package.
Yours for only $2 with any $12 minimum purchase of Merle Norman products. Including a Cleansing Bar with Sponge, Fresh 'N Fair Skin Freshener, Moisture Lotion, Lip Stay and Performance Lipstick. It's everything you need to face up to spring beautifully.
This offer is only good while supplies last, from February 16th to March 31st. Limit one per customer.

Woman to Woman
MERLE NORMAN®

Circle 12 on the Reader Service Form

***New!* Online Pet Supply Shop**

For one-stop pet supply shopping, type GO NH.

HOW TO OPEN A MALL STORE

Do you have a product or a service that you think CompuServe subscribers could use? Consider opening a Mall store! Contact the sales office for details.

Kim Cheatham
The Electronic Mall
3411 Office Park Drive, Suite 200
Dayton, OH 45439
(513) 296-4850

Direct From Our Roaster To You

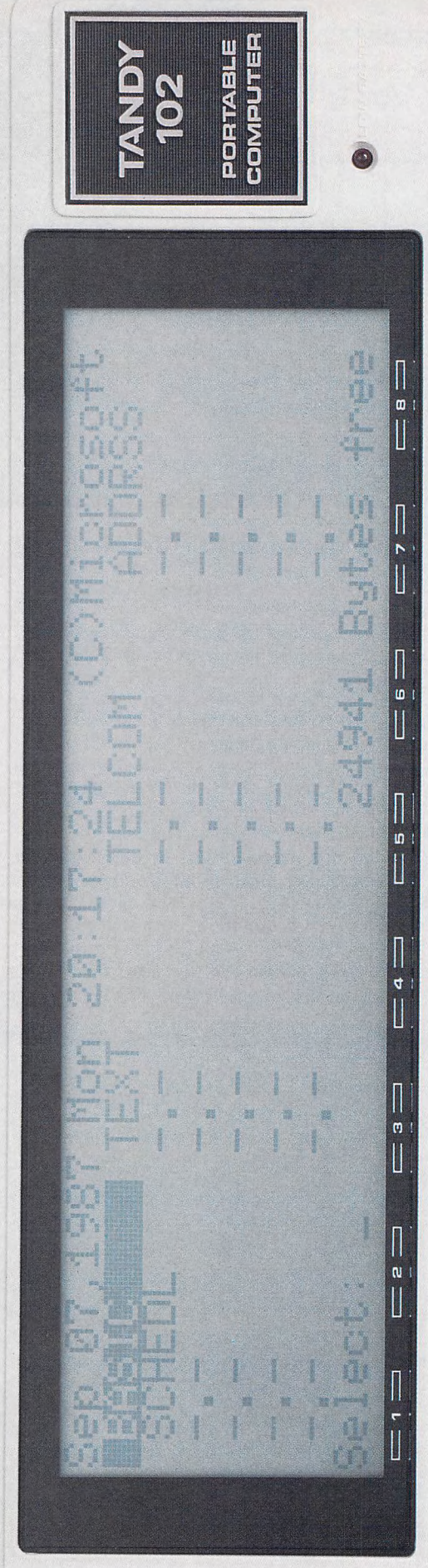
C • O • F • F • E • E
E M P O R I U M

Purveyors of Gourmet Coffees & Teas

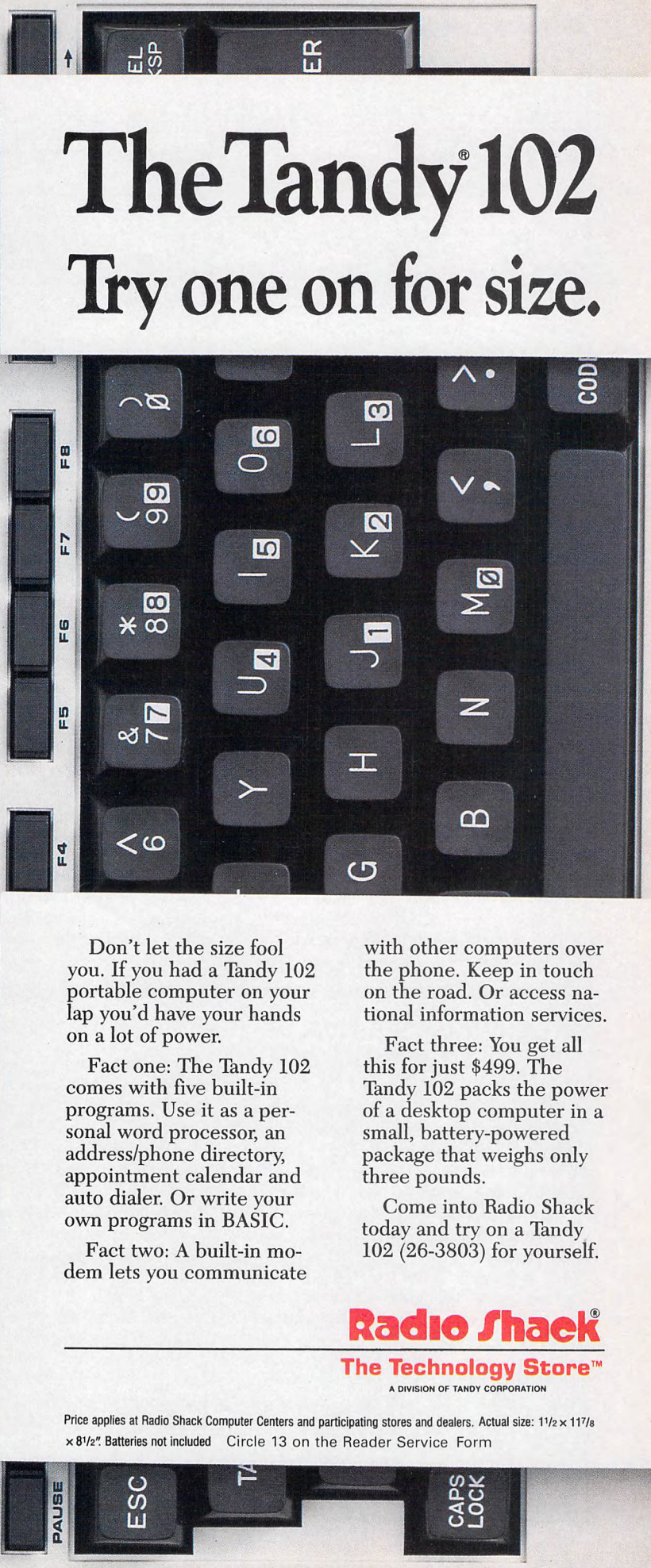
- Gifts for Family, Friends and Business Associates
- We Offer the World's Rarest Coffee - Jamaican Blue Mountain
- Try Our Sampler Packs

Come Shop With Us!

GO COF



The Tandy® 102
Try one on for size.



Don't let the size fool you. If you had a Tandy 102 portable computer on your lap you'd have your hands on a lot of power.

Fact one: The Tandy 102 comes with five built-in programs. Use it as a personal word processor, an address/phone directory, appointment calendar and auto dialer. Or write your own programs in BASIC.

Fact two: A built-in modem lets you communicate with other computers over the phone. Keep in touch on the road. Or access national information services.

Fact three: You get all this for just $499. The Tandy 102 packs the power of a desktop computer in a small, battery-powered package that weighs only three pounds.

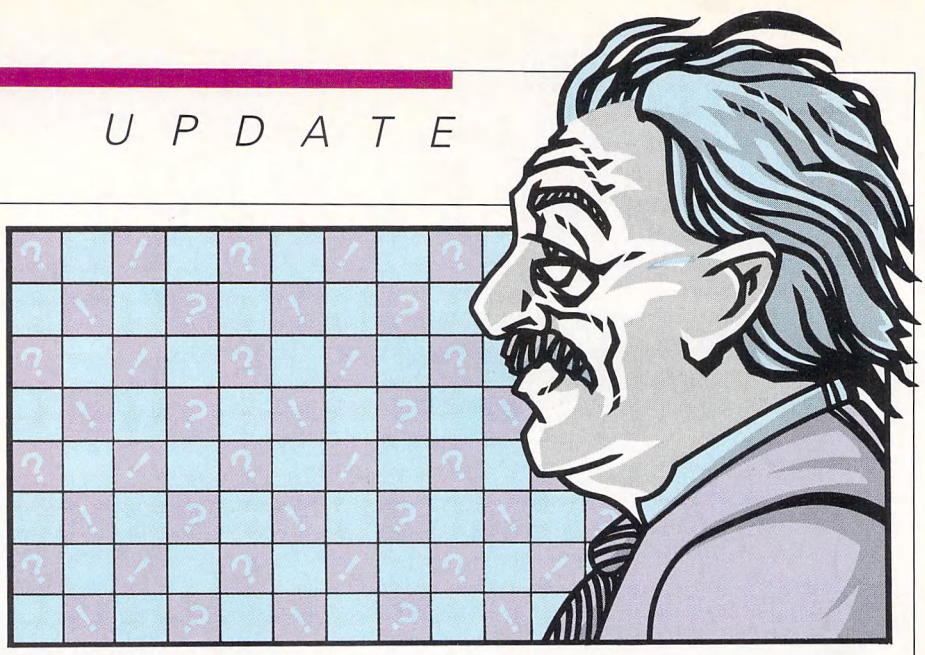
Come into Radio Shack today and try on a Tandy 102 (26-3803) for yourself.

Radio Shack®
The Technology Store™
A DIVISION OF TANDY CORPORATION

Price applies at Radio Shack Computer Centers and participating stores and dealers. Actual size: 11/2 x 117/8 x 81/2". Batteries not included Circle 13 on the Reader Service Form

Ask Einstein

Database Aids Student Researchers



Students writing reports for class will be able to use the Einstein service to conduct research without leaving home.

Available starting this month on CompuServe, Einstein offers access to nearly 90 keyword-searchable databases selected to meet the needs of students in grades seven through 12.

Einstein is an information access tool designed to help junior and senior high school students improve their research skills, according to C. Mark Battey, general manager of the information services division for Addison-Wesley, the educational publisher serving as information provider for the service.

To create Einstein, Addison-Wesley compiled databases operated by several different organizations. "We selected only those databases most likely to make sense to students," Battey says. "This service is not just about getting information—it is about students getting the information they need." Many of the materials referenced in Einstein are likely to be found in high school and public libraries.

Einstein menu categories include art, music, drama and film; business and economics; English and literature; science, health and computers; social studies; and general reference.

Most menu sections include references to newspapers and newswires, popular magazines, journals and encyclopedias. Topics of particular interest include literature reviews, biographical information, and hardware and software reviews.

Under the social studies listing are sections on current events and history and a section on government with subtopics for legislation and census data. The general reference section includes databases on college information, foundations and biographies.

If background on local news is needed for a civics or current events project, Einstein provides access to published information dating back to 1984 from more than 35 regional newspapers around the country. This recent newspaper information can help give students a better perspective on historical events. For instance, students can relate the political, economic and religious issues found in today's immigration news to those during an earlier period in history.

Use of the service also teaches students that there are different points of view on various issues. Through exposure to many sources of information, they can collect ideas and then formulate their own viewpoints.

Einstein acts as a desktop librarian, offering a series of menus that enable the user to narrow a search to the appropriate topic. The user also may enter a keyword to directly access the needed information. To do this, a topic should be chosen, then entered in truncated form followed by a slash. For example, if "Eskimo/" is typed, the system also will find other forms of the word such as "Eskimos." Punctuation

Einstein to the Rescue

It is 9 p.m. and Larry has just finished reading *In Search of Excellence: Lessons from America's Best-Run Companies*. His English teacher expects a book review tomorrow, and time is definitely not on his side. What is a champion procrastinator to do?

Larry has the basic facts down but he would like to compare his opinions with those of professionals. With the assistance of Einstein, he goes straight to the top to see what nationally recognized book critics have to say about *In Search of Excellence*.

After logging onto CompuServe, he types GO EINSTEIN to access Einstein. Next, he selects the "English, literature" category from the main menu. From there he enters the reviews section, where he is prompted to type his specific topic.

Truncating the book's title, he types "Search Excellence." Einstein restates his entry to check its accuracy and then begins the search. Information appearing almost immediately on his computer screen tells him the system is searching the Book Review Digest database provided through H. W. Wilson Co.'s Wilsonline. Larry watches as the search and retrieval proceeds.

Soon, he is informed that only one item satisfies his search phrase. He is instructed to press the Return key to see the results of his search. When he hits the Return key, the book review listings for *In Search of Excellence: Lessons from America's Best-Run Companies* appear on his screen. He sees that reviews have been published in *America*, *The Atlantic*, *Library Journal*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Choice*, *Business Horizons*, *National Review* and *Commonweal*. Each article listing includes the volume, page number, date of publication, author and length of article.

Einstein then lets Larry look at the abstract for his selection.

First, he receives a summary of the contents of the book itself, and information related to the author and publisher. Next, Larry gets one-paragraph abstracts and bibliographic information from the reviews he selected.

After completing the searches, Larry has enough information to begin writing the paper on his word processor. Thanks to Einstein, "Last-Minute Larry" is well on his way to meeting his deadline.

—KKB

Einstein is a service mark of Addison-Wesley Publishing Co. Inc.
Einstein provides access to a service of Telebase Systems Inc.

should be omitted from keyword entries. For instance, "seven-nation" should be typed as "seven nation."

Two terms may be searched simultaneously by typing "AND" between two keywords. Typing "OR" between two terms will instruct the system to search for either of them. Related terms should be grouped in parentheses separated by "OR," as in "(crude oil OR petroleum) AND dollar/." After the topic is established, Einstein will direct the search to the appropriate database.

All searches are conducted in real time and results are displayed electronically in either bibliographic or full-text form. Bibliographic information includes references to periodicals that can be used to perform further research at a library. Abstracts from bibliographies provide one-paragraph summaries of key information available through each given reference. Abstracts usually include the desired facts, thereby eliminating the need for further searching.

Full-text databases serve as complete references, making trips to the library unnecessary. Included in the service's full-text databases is the full editorial content of 35 regional newspapers, and the Associated Press, United Press International and TASS newswires.

Einstein offers students a twofold benefit: They can swiftly obtain information and gain valuable experience in how to access an online database. There is a $4 surcharge for performing a search on Einstein. However, one search nets a wealth of information. A search of the newspaper database, for instance, nets eight references and a full-text article or abstract (when available) for one of the references.

Use of Einstein can be more economical than investing in a set of infrequently used encyclopedias, Battey observes. "It is the equivalent of having a library for every student. They have to pay for only what they check out."

Einstein is available after 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and all day Saturday, Sunday and holidays. To access the database, type GO EINSTEIN at any prompt in the CompuServe Information Service.

—Kathy Baird

Ask Customer Service

Q: I've just purchased a new computer. How can I change my terminal settings online? Which settings do I need to change?

A: To access the online area where you can set your terminal type, display size, output delays and communications parameters, type GO TERMINAL at any prompt in the CompuServe Information Service. For an explanation of the role of each parameter and guidance on setting the parameters, choose the option "Instructions."

Q: Which terminal type should I set my terminal to if it is not listed in the menu of available terminal types?

A: Choose the terminal type OTHER.

Q: When I turn on my printer, I lose the first few letters of every line. How can I correct this?

A: When CompuServe sends textual data, each line ends with a carriage return and line feed. Some printers, however, take longer than others to mechanically perform a carriage return, and in these situations, drop the first few characters of each line. To correct this problem, type GO TERMINAL at any prompt and choose the option "Setting Delays for Printers." Try changing the delay to three. You may need to try different printer delays before you find the setting where the characters at the beginning of lines are no longer lost.

Q: How can I change my terminal settings so that text will display completely across instead of only halfway across my terminal screen?

A: Type GO TERMINAL at any prompt and choose the option "View or Change Current Terminal Parameters." Next, select and change the terminal width entry to reflect your new terminal width.

Q: Sometimes I use my friend's computer to log onto CompuServe. Is there a way I can temporarily change my terminal width just for that session?

A: Yes, type SET WIDTH at any prompt and the desired terminal screen width. For example: SET WIDTH 32.

Q: When I access some of CompuServe's online games, I'm prompted for my terminal type. Which type should I choose?

A: Check your communications software's documentation to see if your terminal emulates one of the choices offered. If it doesn't, choose the option "No Cursor Control."

Q: My software requires that my terminal settings be set to 8 data bits with no parity for file transfers. These settings, however, cause garbled text to be displayed online. How can I prevent this from happening?

A: First, change the terminal settings of your communications software to 7 bits and even parity. Next, log on to CompuServe at the same baud rate that you would use with 8 bits and no parity, enter GO TERMINAL at any prompt and select the option "View or Change Current Terminal Parameters." Then, select the option "Parity is." CompuServe will display a menu of available parity settings along with your current setting. Choose the option "ZERO" and log off.

CompuServe will ask if you want the changes you made to be effective for future sessions or for that session only. Be sure to select "Make all changes effective for future sessions." Next, change the terminal settings of your communications software back to 8 bits and no parity and log onto CompuServe. The "User ID" prompt still will appear garbled but once you enter your User ID number, the password prompt and the text that follows will not be garbled.

Q: How can I get an uninterrupted display of articles that are longer than one screen instead of being prompted to "Press ‹CR› for more"?

A: Type GO TERMINAL at any prompt and choose the option "Setting Your Service Options." Next, set your display so that the pagination is disabled.

These answers and more are available in Customer Service's Question & Answer Database. You can find answers to questions about billing, logging on, using forums, sending EasyPlex messages, using the Personal File area, setting up a Personal Menu and more. Type GO QUESTIONS at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

—Pat Hole and Judy Voight

AT&T Calls Attention to the Telephone

"Mr. Watson, come here. I want you." The exchange between Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Watson took place on March 10, 1876, three days after Bell had received a patent on the telephone. Bell had just spilled acid on his clothes and was calling for help.

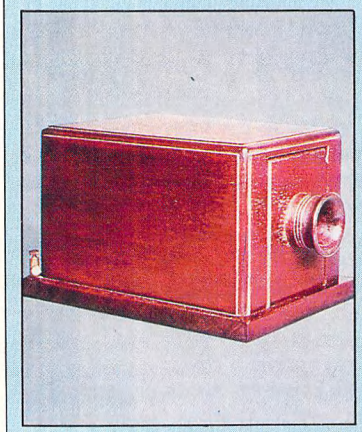
AT&T is celebrating the 111th anniversary of the first phone call, and saluting the progress of telecommunications from the first telephones, sold in pairs with direct wire between them, to online services such as CompuServe.

Visit AT&T's Mall store in March to discover the products and services that have changed the way we live and do business. At AT&T's Mall store you also will discover telecommunications trivia and have a chance to win prizes in a special online contest. GO ATT for details.

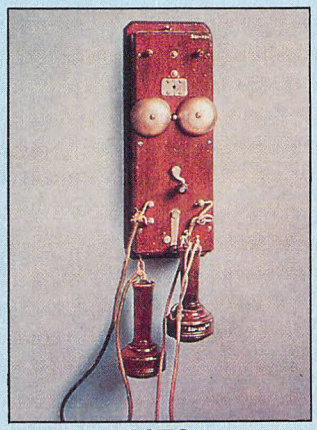
AT&T's Mall store can be your one-stop, online communications source. Take advantage of interactive search guides and let the AT&T specialists identify the products and services that can meet your needs. AT&T's search service can recommend phones and answering machines, business products, long-distance services and even gift items. You simply answer a series of questions online and the AT&T program shows you real-life situations, statistics and suggestions to aid in problem solving. The program instantly suggests communications products and services that can cut costs, save time and solve problems.

Take advantage of AT&T's unique, interactive search services or simply browse the online catalog. You'll find everything from telephones and answering machines to computers, cellular phones and do-it-yourself installation kits. You'll also find detailed descriptions—and the opportunity to order—for a wide range of long-distance services, including the AT&T Calling Card, USA Direct, Reach Out America and AT&T WATS Service. At AT&T you always have the opportunity to request free brochures on products and services. GO ATT

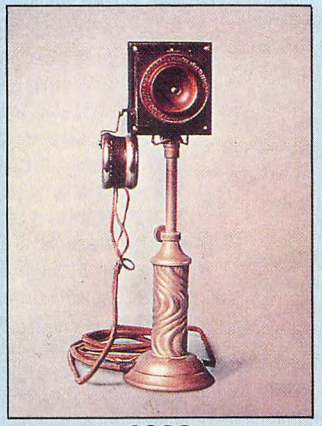
History of Telecommunications



1877

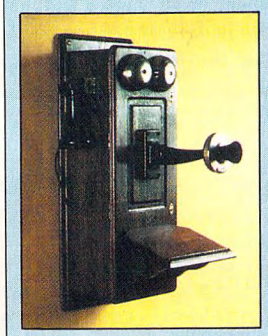


1878



1892

1897



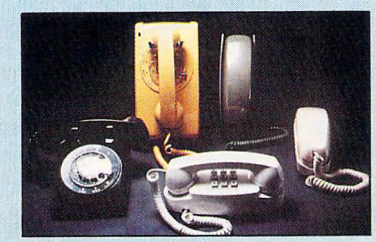
1907

1919

1930

1949

1965



1979

1986

NEW PRODUCTS

Space Education Forum Announced

The Space Education Forum now is available for all CompuServe subscribers interested in the relationship between the space program and education. The NASA Teacher in Space Project finalists will be participating in the forum and are looking forward to lively exchanges about how the space program's technologies relate to education.

The forum also will serve as a focus for late-breaking aerospace news and will provide a medium for national figures in space education fields to address teachers, students and the public. GO SPACEED

New Car Showroom Features '87s

Before you buy a new car, van or small truck, check into the New Car Showroom for the 1987 model features, specifications and prices.

New menus and prompts allow quicker access in selecting your new automobile. The new auto/truck selector feature helps you find passenger cars, wagons or trucks according to your options. Another menu choice allows you to figure monthly payments.

If you know what you want, the New Car Showroom will list base prices and complete total cost breakdowns for 90 cents. If you are undecided, a side-by-side car comparison is available for $1.20 per comparison. GO NEWCAR

TravelVision Has New Products

TravelVision, the maker of Exxon road maps, has introduced two new products at reduced prices.

The Map Library Executive Edition includes 30 US road maps covering 50 states and is contained in a deluxe, permanent, gold-stamped library case. It also comes with tab index dividers; an easy-to-use, cross-indexed reference card; special maps; a world political map; and a complete US road map with a trip planner.

The new Road Maps USA Map Collection includes a complete, full-color collection of state road maps packaged in an attractive, full-color, sturdy box for $19.95. GO TRV

Forum Enhancements Online

All CompuServe forums now have new features.

The enhancements include the capability for forum administrators to establish 18 message subtopics and 18 independent data libraries. The actual number of message subtopics may vary among forums.

The Member Directory now has more flexibility. A BROwse feature also has been added for reading messages.

For more details, visit the forums and type NEW at the main forum prompt.

CompuServe's Questions and Answers database, supported by Customer Service, contains forum-related questions and answers about the new software. GO QUESTIONS

Sun 'N' Sand Offers Sears Packages

Sun 'N' Sand Vacations offers a new Sears Travel package in Southern California. CompuServe subscribers interested in visiting Los Angeles benefit from an introductory special including accommodations, tours to Walt Disney's Magic Kingdom, Universal City Studios, Knott's Berry Farm, San Diego's Sea World and the San Diego Zoo.

Discover Orlando also offers new Sears Travel Vacation Packages to Florida. Any Sears Travel Vacation package may be charged to SearsCharge, Discover Card, MasterCard or VISA. GO SNS

CB Club Continues Special Prices

CompuServe subscribers who use the CB Simulator now can decide what their standard time hourly rates on CB will be. For a monthly club fee you can use CB for as little as $1 per hour, even at 1200-baud.

Two CB Club rate plans are available. For a monthly club fee of $25, you can have a standard time hourly rate in CB of $4 per hour. For a monthly club fee of $100, you can have a standard time hourly rate in CB of $1 per hour. Communications surcharges still apply. GO CBCLUB

Orlando Vacation Packages Online

Discover Orlando now offers Sears Travel Vacation Packages through its online reservation system.

These new travel packages include hotel reservations, attractive admissions and limited membership in the Allstate Motor Club with additional benefits: hotel discounts, routing service, trip interruption insurance and lost key/lockout benefits. Car rentals and airfare also are options. GO ORLANDO

2400-Baud Reduction Available

CompuServe subscribers now are able to access the Information Service at 2400-baud for the 1200-baud connect charge.

Subscribers now can get the same amount of information for less expense and in less time than before at 1200-baud.

The prime or daytime rate for 2400-baud access has been cut from $22.50 per connect hour to $15 per connect hour. The standard or evening/weekend connect rate for 2400-baud access has been cut from $19 to $12.50.

The 2400-baud rate reduction resulted from increased use of 2400-baud modems. Since CompuServe first offered 2400-baud access in 30 cities one year ago, 2400-baud access has expanded to 100 cities nationwide.

Rates for up to 300-baud access will remain at $6 per hour for standard service hours and $12.50 per hour during prime service time. Costs for 1200-baud access will remain at $12.50 per hour for standard service and $15 per hour for prime service hours. Communication surcharges apply. GO PHONES

Probing the Psyche

Database Explores Mysteries of the Mind

If you need information about motivating co-workers, coping with illness or educating a gifted child, you may find it in PsycINFO, a database available to CompuServe subscribers through IQuest.

PsycINFO is a database of psychological abstracts for psychologists, researchers, executives, educators, students and anyone interested in probing the boundaries of psychology.

The PsycINFO database is provided by the American Psychological Association, Washington, DC and available through BRS.

This extensive database, updated monthly, provides access to the world's literature on psychology and related sciences. Topics include motivation, learning, emotions, personality, medicine and social issues.

"PsycINFO contains articles from more than 1,400 journals. If you are curious about something, access PsycINFO and take a look. There are so many subjects," says Marcia Haddox, CompuServe product marketing associate.

The PsycINFO database is a vast store of selected, abstracted and indexed, information covering the world's literature on psychology and allied fields.

It is designed for psychologists researching a specific disorder to treat a patient and others checking the effects of advertising on consumer loyalty or taking a first course in introductory psychology.

PsycINFO in IQuest is bibliographic, allows 10 headings per search and provides abstracts only. No full-text articles are available online.

Because PsycINFO is an IQuest bibliographic database, it provides menus that prompt you for your information needs and then gives complete reference information including an article's title, author, publication and date.

Often this is enough for research purposes, but this bibliographic database also provides a summary of an article, called an abstract, that may assist you in determining if you want to review any full-text articles.

About 1,400 periodicals, including dissertation abstracts, international technical reports and monographs, are scanned for this service every year.

From this broad base of publications, the staff selects all relevant material on psychology and allied fields —a total of more than 40,000 entries annually.

Abstracts from the works of thousands of scholars and research groups are available for keyword search and retrieval to analyze special disorders, produce clinical reports, explore consumer behavior, evaluate child development and supplement introductory psychology coursework.

The cost to perform an IQuest search is $7. There is an additional $2 surcharge for each abstract you request to see.

Seeking answers online: *Haddox*

For example, if you are curious about what researchers say about the effect of television advertising on your child, you may find the answer in PsycINFO.

To access PsycINFO, type GO IQUEST at any CompuServe Information Service prompt and choose option 6, "Access IQuest," from the IQuest main menu.

CompuServe connects you to the IQuest service in a few moments and a second menu appears. Choose option 2, "IQuest II: You pick the database." Then type PsycINFO when IQuest prompts you for a database.

After you are connected to PsycINFO, the system prompts you to "Enter your psychology topic." Type TELEVISION ADVERTIS/ AND CHILDREN to find available information.

In this example, 111 items satisfy this search phrase. PsycINFO shows you the most recent 10 article headings, their authors and journal references.

Heading number 5 - 'Parent-Child Interaction Over TV Advertising to Children,' heading number 9 - 'The Effects of Commercials for Adult Products on Children,' and heading number 10 - 'Sex Role Stereotyping in Children's Advertising: Current and Past Trends' may be of interest.

To see the abstracts, choose option 2, "See Abstracts," from the IQuest menu and type headings 5, 9 and 10 at the prompt. You may want to print or capture this information.

PsycINFO covers the entire spectrum of human behavior. Developmental psychology abstracts include information about cognitive and emotional development, motor development and socialization.

Physiological psychology covers neurology, sensory activity, stress, genetics, biofeedback and drug effects.

Communication systems includes psycholinguistics, nonverbal signs, art, music and information processing.

Social psychology covers interpersonal relations, international communication, behavior modification, bargaining and social perceptions. Parapsychology includes extrasensory perception, telepathy, precognition and clairvoyance.

Also included is animal psychology covering animal learning, instinctive behavior, sensory processes and conditioning.

This service is provided by PsycINFO and IQuest and is available to CompuServe Information Service subscribers. To access PsycINFO, type GO IQUEST at any CompuServe prompt.

—Denise Erwin

Leading Edge's Modem

Model L Does Its Job Well

Leading Edge Hardware Products Inc.
225 Turnpike St.
Canton, MA 02021
617/449-4655 or 800/343-3436

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT and compatibles.
Operating Systems: MS-DOS or PC-DOS version 2.0 or higher.
Media: Requires one single-sided or double-sided floppy drive for the accompanying software.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: None.
Other Requirements: Computer must have one spare expansion slot.
Optional Items: None.
System used for test: 640K IBM PC with two double-sided diskette drives and monochrome monitor; running PC-DOS 2.1.
List Price: $149.95

Reviewed by Frank Jones

The Model L Series Modem is an unpretentious little unit that does its job well. It is neither state-of-the-art nor yesterday's technology, but it's a basic, good product that happens to be priced a lot lower than its Hayes counterpart.

For a reasonable price, the Model L includes some gratifying standard equipment. It comes with an operator's manual, an RJ-11 telephone cable and BitCom version 2.3, which is a capable communications program. The modem itself is a half-size plug-in card that installs easily (less than 10 minutes) in any expansion slot. Operating at either 300 or 1200 baud, it's compatible with the Hayes Smartmodem 1200B and recognizes the standard "AT" or "attention" commands used by Hayes units. The adjustment for the speaker volume is on the modem's metal bracket.

The modem arrives configured as the COM2 serial port. By adjusting DIP switches on the card, you can address the modem as COM1, COM2, COM3 or COM4. I already had a serial port set as COM2 and had to reset the modem to COM1. The Model L also has four jumpers, but they need be changed from their default settings only when using COM3 or COM4 ports or installing the modem in a Compaq or Columbia 1600.

After setting the port and slipping the card into a slot, a quick run of the modem's built-in analog loopback test showed that all was well. I was ready to load and run the BitCom program.

BitCom is a menu-driven communications program that's easy to use. Communications parameters and options are set up simply by completing appropriate forms on screen. Multiple choice selections keep you from selecting invalid parameters. If you get confused, a single keystroke summons a context-sensitive help facility. If you're a veteran of the communications world and don't need menus, you can set the communications parameters once and then run BitCom with a DOS command. Incidentally, a copy of the COMMAND.COM from DOS must be on the BitCom disk before it will function properly.

One of BitCom's better features lets you access DOS directly, so you can run DOS programs without disconnecting your communications link. Other features include automatic dialing, answering and logging on to services; XMODEM protocol; programmable function keys; and ADM-3A, VT100 and IBM 3101 terminal emulations.

Once you load BitCom, you're presented with a main menu having four options. Option 1 brings you to the list of numbers in your dialing directory. From there, you can simply pick one and press D to dial. Option 2 invokes the "script" function, which provides a limited communications language for automating logon and database procedures. Option 3 lets you change global configuration parameters. Option 4 accesses to DOS.

I tested the modem and BitCom software with CompuServe and about a dozen Silicon Valley bulletin boards. The only problem I encountered was my own fault. I tried to talk with a 300-baud bulletin board while my modem and serial port were set at 1200 baud. Oops!

The 95-page manual accompanying the Model L is divided into two main sections. The first 32 pages are on the modem hardware, while the last 63 pages are devoted to BitCom. Each section has its own glossaries and appendixes. Unfortunately, neither section includes an index of any kind, which is inexcusable.

The lack of an index for manual is about the only complaint I have. This isn't a whiz-bang modem, but it does what it says it will do. If every personal computing product on the market were as trustworthy, we'd all have a lot fewer problems.

Frank Jones is the former managing editor of Interface Age *magazine and the founding editor of Que Corp.'s* IBM PC Update *magazine.*

Trademarks: BitCom (Bit Software Inc.); CompuServe (CompuServe Incorporated); IBM, PC, PC-XT and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); MS-DOS (Microsoft Inc.).

Circle 14 on the Reader Service Form

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MaxUle& Company Inc.
202 East 39th St.
NY, NY 10016

Circle 15 on the Reader Service Form

OmniTel Encore Modem

Provides 2400 bps at a Reasonable Price

OmniTel Inc.
5415 Randall Pl.
Fremont, CA 94538
415/490-2202

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and most compatibles.
Operating Systems: MS-DOS or PC-DOS version 2.0 or later.
Media: Software supplied on one floppy diskette.
Copy Protection: Bundled software is not copy protected.
Required Peripherals: None.
Other Requirements: One half-length or longer slot; minimum 256K RAM for bundled software.
Optional Items: None.
System used for test: 704K Heathkit PC-150 computer with high-resolution color monitor, two double-sided diskette drives, two 20MB hard disks and a V-20 processor; running MS-DOS 2.13.
Price: $499 for modem and software.

Reviewed by Hardin Brothers

We always want our computers to run faster. Not long ago, 1200-bps modems supplanted slower 300-bps modems as the "standard" for telecommunications. Today, 2400 bps modems are taking over as the new standard for those who insist that their computers work at the fastest speed possible.

The Omnitel Encore 2400HB is among newest entries in the 2400 bps modem market. It's supplied on a densely packed and apparently well-made, half-length card that can plug into any computer with a standard IBM PC bus. This modem is easily configured. Small switches, accessible from the back of the computer, set the modem as COM1, COM2, COM3 or COM4 and configure the Data Terminal Ready (DTR) and Carrier Detect (CD) status lines. Three small jumpers on the modem card select interrupt lines and configure the Clear To Send (CTS) line.

If all that sounds too technical, you needn't worry. The modem is set at the factory for the configuration most users will choose, and the Encore manual clearly explains the rationale for each configuration option. The only difficulty I found was that components on the board are so densely packed that I needed tweezers to change one jumper.

The Encore modem can be configured by software to run at 300, 1200 or 2400 bps. Because it uses the industry standard "Hayes-compatible" command set, it should work with nearly any terminal program. I tested it with three terminal programs at all three speeds. It performed well in all tests and seemed to be at least as immune to line noise as the other modems I use. I found no problems at all except that the built-in speaker (active only during dialing) was a little too loud for my tastes. However, speaker volume can be reset with a software command to the modem.

The Encore Modem is supplied with a terminal program called BitCom, published by Bit Software Inc. I've generally found bundled communications software barely adequate for running a modem, and I usually turn to another program for daily work. BitCom, however, is powerful, easy to use and comparable to some programs costing almost as much as this entire modem and software package. Its opening menu lets you move to a phone directory, run a script file, change either the software or modem configuration and issue a DOS command or run another program without leaving BitCom.

BitCom's telephone directory can hold up to 32,000 phone numbers, more than anyone could reasonably use. Each entry includes an 8-character identification name, a longer descriptive phrase, a 40-character phone number, and other information about communication and program parameters used while connected to that number. Most programs let you specify only speed, parity, data bits and stop bits for each phone number. BitCom also lets you define special keys, apply input and output filters and set several delays for each phone number. You also can define a default capture file, an automatic logon file, a capture mode and an emulation mode for each number.

BitCom's ability to emulate several popular terminals, plus its top speed of 9600 bps, makes it suitable for direct connections to other computers. Using BitCom, your computer can emulate an ADM-3A, VT100 or IBM 3101 terminal, or you can design your own terminal configuration.

There also is a complete programming language inside BitCom for creating special action files and automatic communications programs. Like most languages, BitCom's terminal language is complex and takes time to learn. However, with a little study and experimentation, you could use it, for example, to log onto CompuServe at a specific time of day, download waiting messages, send messages from one or more disk files and log off.

I like both the Encore modem and BitCom software, and I like the price. If I were planning to buy a 2400 bps modem, or even a new 1200 bps modem, I'd seriously consider this package. However, I wish BitCom supported more than ASCII and XMODEM transfer protocols, and that both the modem and software sections of the manual included a little more technical information. Nevertheless, this is a powerful package at a reasonable price.

Hardin Brothers is an associate editor of 80 Micro *and a frequent contributor to several other magazines. He is also forum administrator of CompuServe's Writers' and Editors' Special Interest Group (GO WESIG).*

Trademarks: CompuServe (CompuServe Incorporated); Heathkit (Heath Co.); IBM, IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); MS-DOS (Microsoft Inc.).

Circle 16 on the Reader Service Form

Electronic Edition Hardware Reviews

The following hardware reviews are available this month on *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-220 at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

Computer Tool Kit
Manufacturer: *Curtis Manufacturing Co., Inc.*
Computers: *Any computer or other electronic equipment.*

VEGA Deluxe Enhanced Graphics Adapter
Manufacturer: *Video-7, Inc.*
Computers: *IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and ega-capable compatibles.*

Hercules Graphics Card Plus
Manufacturer: *Hercules Computer Technology*
Computers: *IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.*

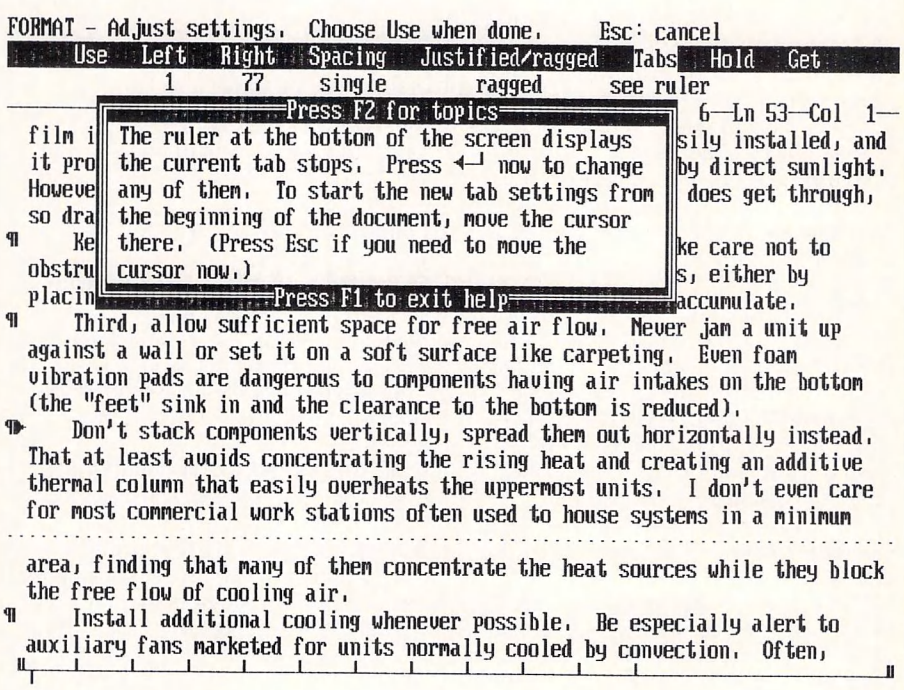
Webster's New WorldWriter

Offers Slick Word Processing

Simon & Schuster Inc.
Gulf + Western Bldg.
One Gulf + Western Plaza
New York, NY 10023
212/333-5800

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles including Compaq, AT&T PC 6300, ITT XTRA, Tandy 1200 and 2000.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or later for PC and PC-XT type machines; PC-DOS 3.0 or later for PC-AT.
Media: Requires two double-sided diskette drives or one diskette drive and a hard disk.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: 80-column color or monochrome monitor; supports EGA-compatible displays.
Other Requirements: Minimum 256K RAM.
Optional Items: Printer (supports more than two dozen brands and models, including Centronics, Diablo, Epson FX, IBM, Juki, NEC, Okidata, Qume, Silver Reed, Star Micronics, Toshiba and others).
System used for test: 640K Compaq Deskpro Model 2 with two diskette drives, 20MB IOMEGA Alpha-10 Cartridge Drive Subsystem (Bernoulli Box), Amdek Color 722 RGB monitor, STB Systems' EGA Plus video adapter and Epson FX-85 printer; running IBM PC-DOS 2.10.
List Price: $150

Reviewed by Ernest E. Mau


FORMAT - Adjust settings. Choose Use when done. Esc: cancel
Use Left Right Spacing Justified/ragged Tabs Hold Get
1 77 single ragged see ruler
Press F2 for topics
The ruler at the bottom of the screen displays the current tab stops. Press ↵ now to change any of them. To start the new tab settings from the beginning of the document, move the cursor there. (Press Esc if you need to move the cursor now.)
Press F1 to exit help
6—Ln 53—Col 1—
film i
it pro
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so dra
sily installed, and
by direct sunlight.
does get through,
¶ Ke
obstru
placin
ke care not to
s, either by
accumulate.
¶ Third, allow sufficient space for free air flow. Never jam a unit up against a wall or set it on a soft surface like carpeting. Even foam vibration pads are dangerous to components having air intakes on the bottom (the "feet" sink in and the clearance to the bottom is reduced).
¶ Don't stack components vertically, spread them out horizontally instead. That at least avoids concentrating the rising heat and creating an additive thermal column that easily overheats the uppermost units. I don't even care for most commercial work stations often used to house systems in a minimum
area, finding that many of them concentrate the heat sources while they block the free flow of cooling air.
¶ Install additional cooling whenever possible. Be especially alert to auxiliary fans marketed for units normally cooled by convection. Often,

Webster's New World Writer is the latest program in a series developed for Simon & Schuster by Korenthal Associates Inc. This word processor includes a spelling checker and an online thesaurus that have been available as freestanding programs for some time.

WNWW (version 1.02) obviously was designed by people who know how to provide effective tools. It is hard to believe that a system this capable sells for such a low price.

Word processors often cater to one type of user, relying on either menus or direct commands. WNWW accommodates both. Tap the Escape key and actions are selected from a menu and submenu system. Tap the Alt key with any of more than two dozen other keys and commands are issued without passing through menus. There are occasional differences in options for operations started via menus and those started via commands, but the differences are minor.

WNWW also accepts many WordStar Control-key commands (but not dot commands), so old-guard WordStar users don't have to learn a whole new system. I developed a hybrid approach, mixing WordStar commands, WNWW Alt-key commands and WNWW menus in a pattern I felt comfortable using.

There is no shortage of features. All expected functions are provided, including cursor movement by character, line, word, tab stop, paragraph, screen, page, marker, line extent and document extent. Simple deletions can be done by character, word, line or cursor to end of line, and an "undelete" function can correct erroneous deletions. Text blocks can be marked, moved, copied, written to disk, changed to all uppercase or all lowercase and moved from one document to another.

The search and replace functions are the most versatile I've seen, with options for case sensitivity, space treatment, wildcards, included or excluded strings, soft hyphens, multiple digits, explicit word beginnings or endings, and even recognition of paragraph boundaries. It can even find and replace carriage returns to facilitate reformatting imported ASCII text where every line ends in a return.

Automatic paragraph or document reforming responds immediately to insertions or deletions, changes in "fenced" or unrestricted format parameters and other changes. When used, right-margin justification is shown onscreen. WNWW also handles "hanging indents."

Line and box drawing are handy at times. WNWW accommodates foreign alphabets, graphics and special symbols, with any IBM symbol entered by pressing [Alt-K] plus Alt and the three-digit symbol code. Such characters are displayed onscreen as they'll appear when the connected printer supports them.

A particularly convenient feature can display 43 lines with an EGA-style video adapter (25 lines with other displays). The display is crisp, readable and useful for editing when more text than usual must be visible.

WNWW stores numerous predefined formats that set margins, spacing, tabs and other parameters for common types of writing. Users can quickly define and store new formats to meet individual needs.

While this review cannot cover everything packed into the program, some other important features include

automatic saving of documents (switchable on or off) after a specified number of keystrokes, double-sided printing on paper, built-in word counting and three lines of headings and footings with adjustable positioning. Telecommunicators will appreciate the two ways of preparing text for transmission. One prints the formatted document to disk; the other saves the raw text in ASCII, stripped of potentially troublesome controls.

Both the spelling checker and thesaurus previously were reviewed in their freestanding versions for *Online Today* (electronic editions of January and October 1986). They are my personal favorites and superseded other similar programs I once used. I still have a problem with the spelling checker accepting too many varietal spellings such as "traveled" and "travelled" or "cagey" and "cagy," but varieties can be tagged as unacceptable in the auxiliary dictionary to exclude them. That one flaw aside, both the spelling checker and thesaurus are fast, flexible, accurate and extremely easy to use.

So what does WNWW lack? It doesn't have document indexing, table of contents preparation, automatic footnoting or a true mail-merge facility. Of course, many people don't need those features anyway.

In all, this is a superior word processor. Context-sensitive help screens and an extensive writer's guide in the manual make it particularly useful to novices. The abilities to switch off help screens and to employ sophisticated formatting and writing aids make it ideal for intermediate and expert users.

Webster's New World Writer is worth its price and deserves serious consideration from anyone planning to buy a new word processing program.

Ernest E. Mau, a full-time free-lance writer and Online Today *reviews editor, is based in Aurora, Colo. He is the author of several books and nearly 300 articles on microcomputer products and applications.*

Trademarks: Alpha-10, IOMEGA and Bernoulli Box (IOMEGA Corp.); Compaq and Deskpro (Compaq Computer Corp.); EGA Plus (STB Systems Inc.); Epson and Epson FX (Epson America Inc.); IBM, PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-DOS(International Business Machines Corp.); MS-DOS (Microsoft Inc.); WordStar (MicroPro International Corp.).

Circle 17 on the Reader Service Form

Reference Set

Provides Thesaurus and Three-Way Spell Checking

Reference Software Inc.
330 Townsend St., #232
San Francisco, CA 94017
415/541-0222 or 800/872- 9933

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or higher.
Media: Requires two double-sided diskette drives or a hard disk.
Copy Protection: None. **Required Peripherals:** Color or monochrome monitor.
Other Requirements: Minimum 128K RAM (memory resident portions consume 25K to 45K if used).
Optional Items: Printer; text editor or word processor (ASCII files, 17 commercial word processors and custom configuration supported).
System used for test: 640K Compaq Deskpro Model 2 with two diskette drives, 20MB IOMEGA Alpha-10 Cartridge Drive Subsystem (Bernoulli Box), Amdek Color 722 RGB monitor, STB Systems EGA Plus video adapter and Epson FX-85 printer; running WordStar 3.3 under IBM PC-DOS 2.10.
List Prices: $89 for spelling checker and thesaurus combination; $69 apiece for spelling checker or thesaurus alone.

Reviewed by Ernest E. Mau

I remember the thrill of first using the Random House Proofreader years ago. Early CP/M and MS-DOS versions of the full-document spelling checker were my standards for judging other proofreaders, and they've rarely been beaten by competitive products in accuracy and flexibility. An improved version now is part of Reference Software's Random House Reference Set (version 2.03).

Reference Set provides an online thesaurus and three approaches to spell checking. Full-document proofreading outside a word processor remains, but there also is on-demand checking of single words or entire screens while within a word processor.

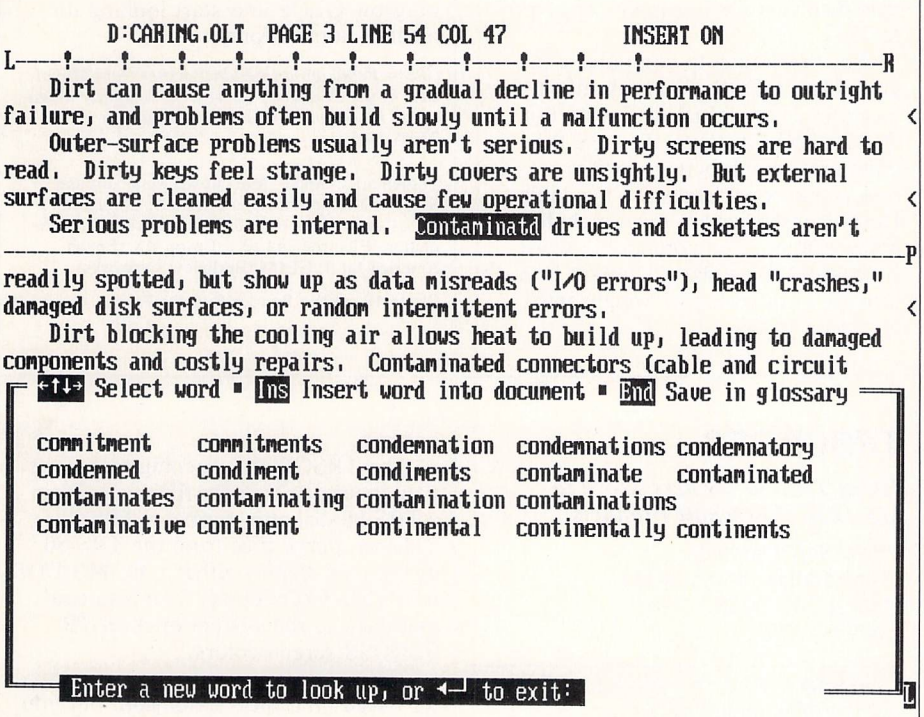
Reference Software's literature directly compares the "engine" and features of Reference Set and Borland's Turbo Lightning, pointing out that Reference Set consumes less memory for resident programs, shows more words on screen and is compatible with more word processors. Reference Set has the full-document spell checking missing from Turbo Lightning. Also, Reference Set doesn't pester users with interruptions while they are typing and doesn't take special steps to turn off the distraction. Reference Set can be tailored to memory and disk configurations using two memory-resident and one non-resident program, plus choices of two thesaurus dictionaries (208K or 120K) and two spell checking dictionaries (188K with 80,000 words or 117K with 50,000 words).

The resident "Refset" program provides on-demand spell checking for about 20,000 single words and synonym lookups with about 50,000 synonyms. Strike [Alt-D] with the cursor anywhere on a word and the spelling is checked within seconds. Strike [Alt-T], and the thesaurus delivers synonyms. Placing the cursor on a chosen substitution and pressing [Insert] automatically replaces the word in text. Glossary functions can store spelling corrections or synonyms for later recall using [Alt-G].

Word checking is comparable in speed and performance to Turbo Lightning. It isn't a complete check of the master dictionary, but it is useful for common words and even lets the user type in word variations to search for alternatives.

Refset's thesaurus has cross-reference capabilities, shows parts of speech, lets the user page through the thesaurus and accepts alternative words to look up variations. Discounting the macro function, it is about equal to Turbo Lightning. However, Refset finds fewer keywords and synonyms than Writing Consultant's Word Finder (with 220,000 synonyms) and can't automatically handle word endings or give synonyms for entire phrases like Webster's New World Thesaurus from Simon & Schuster. That makes Refset's thesaurus a third choice at best.

The resident "Refscrn" program checks spellings for entire word processing screens by pressing [Alt-S]. It highlights questionable words but cannot make corrections (Refset must be used). Like Turbo Lightning, highlighting disappears immediately on moving the cursor but can be restored by pressing [Alt-R]. Typically, a user would check a screen, focus on a highlighted word before moving the cursor, move to that word, activate Refset to correct it and then use [Alt-R] to restore other highlighted words. This rarely is worth the effort except when editing inside a long document that


D:CARING.OLT PAGE 3 LINE 54 COL 47 INSERT ON
Dirt can cause anything from a gradual decline in performance to outright failure, and problems often build slowly until a malfunction occurs.
Outer-surface problems usually aren't serious. Dirty screens are hard to read. Dirty keys feel strange. Dirty covers are unsightly. But external surfaces are cleaned easily and cause few operational difficulties.
Serious problems are internal. Contaminatd drives and diskettes aren't
readily spotted, but show up as data misreads ("I/O errors"), head "crashes," damaged disk surfaces, or random intermittent errors.
Dirt blocking the cooling air allows heat to build up, leading to damaged components and costly repairs. Contaminated connectors (cable and circuit
Select word ▪ Ins Insert word into document ▪ End Save in glossary
commitment commitments condemnation condemnations condemnatory
condemned condiment condiments contaminate contaminated
contaminates contaminating contamination contaminations
contaminative continent continental continentally continents
Enter a new word to look up, or ↵ to exit:

isn't going to be completely proofed again.

The non-resident "Refspell" program is much like the old Random House Proofreader and is the best part of the package. It proofs entire documents outside the word processor and has provisions for reviewing error lists and automatically replacing misspellings or marking them for later editing. It is faster than the old Proofreader. Using identical dictionaries, Refspell read a 50K file having 7,000 total and 1,900 unique words and did the dictionary lookups in 61 seconds; the old Proofreader took 108 seconds. User interactions with Refspell are quick and easy, with provisions for showing misspellings in context, ignoring a word once, accepting it throughout the document, getting suggested replacements or adding it to the user dictionary.

As expected, there are some unacceptable varietal spellings in Refspell's dictionary. "Labeled" and "labelled" or "traveler" and "traveller" are accepted without question. However, "adaptor," "byelaw," "employe," "nosey" and others are rejected in favor of conventional spellings, so this dictionary has fewer problems than most. Furthermore, words can be added to or deleted from the main dictionary with a utility designed for merging user dictionaries into the main dictionary to improve speed. That same utility can extract unwanted varieties.

A conversion program adapts old dictionaries from previous releases. I successfully converted the main dictionary I built over years of using the old Proofreader and didn't have to sacrifice the work that went into tailoring a dictionary to my needs.

While I consider the thesaurus acceptable but inferior to competing products, Reference Set's spell checking is superb. With its improved speed and flexible main dictionary, the non-resident spelling checker ranks among the best available.

Ernest E. Mau, a full-time free-lance writer and Online Today reviews editor, is based in Aurora, Colo. He is the author of several books and nearly 300 articles on microcomputer products and applications.

Trademarks: Alpha-10, IOMEGA and Bernoulli Box (IOMEGA Corp.); Compaq and Deskpro (Compaq Computer Corp.); CP/M (Digital Research Inc.);EGA Plus (STB Systems Inc.); Epson and Epson FX (Epson America Inc.); IBM, PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); MS-DOS (Microsoft Inc.); Random House (Random House Inc.); Turbo Lightning (Borland International Inc.); Webster's New World (Simon & Schuster Inc.); Word Finder (Writing Consultants); WordStar (MicroPro International Corp.).

Circle 18 on the Reader Service Form

GEOS Operating System

Gives the C-64 a Macintosh Feel

Berkeley Softworks
2150 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94704
415/644-0890 or 800/443-0100

Computer: Commodore 64.
Operating System: GEOS.
Media: Requires one Commodore 1541 disk drive.
Copy Protection: Program is heavily copy protected; no backup is included or offered.
Required Peripherals: Commodore 1541 disk drive; suitably interfaced printer.
Optional Items: Color monitor.
System used for test: Commodore 64 with one 1541 disk drive, Commodore 1702 monitor, Cardco G-Whiz interface and Epson RX-80 printer.
Retail Price: $59.95

Reviewed by Cheryl Peterson

For people who have been afraid to buy home computers because they are so complex, Berkeley Softworks has created a software package to ease new buyers' fears. Offering a user interface similar to the Apple Macintosh's famous "only takes minutes to learn" operating system, GEOS also includes modules similar to MacPaint and MacWrite.

GEOS is being distributed with the new Commodore C-64 computers. It also is being offered for older models. Within a couple months of shipping early copies, Berkeley started distributing upgrades. This review focuses on the upgraded version.

Because of Apple's penchant for suing those who copy the Macintosh environment too closely, Berkeley Softworks was careful to include enough differences to protect themselves. Although the new mouse created for the Commodore 128 will work with the 64, Berkeley wisely assumes most users will be using a joystick, though they still refer to clicking, selecting and activating icons in their manual.

The manual, is among the nicer ones I've seen. The size of a trade paperback, it is easily held in one hand. The organization is logical, and all options are clearly explained. Using the index, you can easily find the answer to most any question.

The selection of icons and menu items is different from the Macintosh

and is disconcerting for an experienced Mac user. The scroll bars are gone, replaced by an up and down arrow at the top of the screen. Window size is always the same, and users are limited to having one window open at a time. Commodore users will quickly learn the system, however, since they have no previous experience to "unlearn."

GeoPaint and GeoWrite are so similar to their Macintosh counterparts that the differences are barely worth mentioning. In GeoWrite, six fonts are immediately available on the disk. Twenty other fonts are available on an accompanying disk, and they may be copied to GEOS work disks if room is made by removing other files.

GeoPaint has many different brush shapes and can handle multiple colors. The fill patterns are many and varied. There aren't as many shape definitions available as with the Macintosh, but they had to cut corners somewhere.

A large selection of printers and interfaces are supported, and the manual includes a table with instructions on which printer choices to use and how to set the interface. My initial printout featured some circles that weren't round and disproportionate figures, even though I used a recommended interface and printer. So GeoPaint isn't so easy that a beginner can't mess up.

GeoPaint files can be inserted into GeoWrite files by using a desk accessory. Another accessory moves sections of one GeoWrite file to another. Other GEOS desk accessories include an alarm clock, calculator, note pad, photo manager, preferences manager and text manager.

Now for the bad news. Despite using a quick loader, GEOS still is somewhat slow. Right now, the only way to run a program is to exit from GEOS. If a non-GEOS disk is placed in the drive, GEOS will show icons for each program and you can click on them to load them. Once they're loaded, however, all GEOS functions are lost.

My biggest objection to the program is that it is copy protected. Although the disk may be copied, the system won't boot without the original master disk. The supplier recommends making duplicates and working from those once the system has booted, but that is no solution. Berkeley's phone support is excellent, but even if they ship a new master disk the day the old one is received, the user must wait at least a week to get it. To me, a copy protected operating system is an anathema, and I see no way for GEOS to gain mass acceptance while it remains copy protected.

For those new to computers, programs like GEOS are an excellent way to get over the initial wariness. For those who have learned to use the computer, much better word processors and graphics packages are available. Desk accessories are even included in some Commodore compatible word processors these days. Though Commodore is throwing its weight into helping Berkeley Softworks promote GEOS, I think most users would soon outgrow GEOS and start looking for meatier applications.

Cheryl Peterson, a free-lance writer from Miami Beach, writes reviews for several computer magazines. Her CompuServe User ID number is 72366.2645.

Trademarks: Apple, Macintosh, MacPaint and MacWrite (Apple Computers Inc.); Commodore 64C, Commodore 64 and Commodore 128 (Commodore Electronics Ltd.); Epson RX (Epson America Inc.); GEOS (Berkeley Softworks).

Circle 19 on the Reader Service Form

TRSCROSS

Helps TRS-80 Owners Move to MS-DOS PowerSoft Products

PowerSoft Products
17060 Dallas Pkwy., #114
Dallas, TX 75248
214/733-4475

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT and most compatibles including Tandy 1000.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or later.
Media: Requires one 40-track diskette drive.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: None.
Other Requirements: Minimum 128K RAM.
Optional Items: None.
System used for test: 1408K Tandy 1000 with Tandy CM-2 color monitor, one double-sided drive and one 20MB hard disk; running PC-DOS 3.2.
List Price: $89.95

Reviewed by Hardin Brothers

Changing to a new computer is more than a matter of adapting to another keyboard and operating system. Most computer owners have programs and data files they want to transfer to the new system. For those moving from a TRS-80 Model I, III or 4 to a PC/MS-DOS computer, TRSCROSS (version 1.06) can make the move easier.

Running on an IBM PC or compatible, TRSCROSS can read most TRS-80 40-track diskettes and transfer files between the two computers. TRSCROSS is not limited to ASCII files and can transfer BASIC programs, binary data files and SuperScripsit files. Executable program files, being machine specific, cannot be transferred and run.

The TRSCROSS opening menu lets you choose to transfer files to or from a TRS-80 diskette, format a TRS-80 diskette, purge files from the TRS-80 diskette or display either a PC/MS-DOS or a TRS-80 directory. You also can exit back to the system or reset TRSCROSS screen colors.

TRSCROSS picks the type of transfer based on a file's extension, but you can always override that choice. One of its nicest features is an ability to decode a tokenized BASIC file, correct the syntax for the target machine and then transfer the file.

In format mode, you can choose to create a TRSDOS 6/LDOS diskette, TRSDOS 1.3 diskette or NEWDOS 80 diskette. Virtually all TRS-80 operating systems can read one of those formats.

This program is necessarily limited to TRS-80 owners who are changing to a PC/MS-DOS computer, but it can save hours of time otherwise spent recreating data files or BASIC programs.

Hardin Brothers is a writer, computer programmer and teacher living near Los Angeles. He is a frequent contributor to several computer magazines. His CompuServe User ID number is 72165,735.

Trademarks: IBM, IBM PC, PC-XT, and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); LDOS (Logical Systems Inc.); MS-DOS (Microsoft Inc.); NEWDOS 80 (Apparat Inc.); TRS-80, TRSDOS, Tandy 1000, and SuperScripsit (Tandy Corp.).

Circle 20 on the Reader Service Form

PC/Personal Investor

Version 5.0 Revises Best Seller

Best Programs Inc.
5134 Leesburg Pike
Alexandria, VA 22302
703/931-1300

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and 100 percent compatibles.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or higher.
Media: Requires at least one diskette drive or a hard disk.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: 132-column printer; 300 or 1200 baud modem.
Other Requirements: Minimum 256K RAM; subscription to Dow Jones News/Retrieval required for automatic updates.
Optional Items: Color graphics adapter and monitor; hard disk recommended for multiple portfolios.
System used for test: 640K IBM PC-XT with IBM black-and-white monitor, IBM monochrome display and printer adapter, two diskette drives, Maynard 20MB hard disk and Okidata Microline 84 printer; running PC-DOS 2.1.
List Price: $200

Reviewed by William J. Lynott

Personal investment programs keep getting better. PC/Personal Investor is a revised version of one that hit the best-seller lists as early as 1984. Originally known simply as Personal Investor, it was acquired by Best Programs when the original publishing company dissolved.

Early users of Personal Investor will recognize the basic program, which retains much of its original structure and menu design. However, the new version has been improved significantly with important upgrades. Version 5.0 handles multiple portfolios, has optional color, holds more information about each security and can convert files to DIF format for import into spreadsheets.

Perhaps the most intimidating aspect of PC/Personal Investor is its main menu. A sort of organizational chart gone haywire, the main menu looms up at you, offering a maze of 14 choices reached by maneuvering the cursor with arrow keys. It isn't as bad as it looks, however, and it seems to get more comfortable after a few uses.

PC/Personal Investor is thorough. The Add/Change Securities screen is divided into two parts. The top part contains descriptive information about a security. The bottom is for information about purchases and holdings of that security. When you enter a security the first time, you're prompted to furnish the stock symbol, CUSIP number, security description, an upper and lower price range for signaling a buy/sell alert, dividend period, earnings per share, high/low/last prices and the date of the last update. Other data such as yield and price/earnings ratio are calculated automatically by the program.

The information you're required to furnish varies slightly with different types of securities such as stocks, bonds and options.

Unless you're planning to maintain portfolio records with manual updates, most information entered for a new security is a one-time job. With a modem and subscription to Dow Jones News/Retrieval, PC/Personal Investor will update opening/closing prices, highest/lowest/last price, volume traded and the net change since the last update. Each time information is updated, the program recalculates the current yield and price/earnings ratio. You may update prices daily, weekly or at any time you choose. Of course, updating through Dow Jones means you must pay the normal online charges for this service.

All stocks are entered into what's called the Master Portfolio. This excellent arrangement simplifies maintaining more than one portfolio. When you update through Dow Jones, the master portfolio is the only one that needs data. The program takes over and automatically updates individual portfolios, depending on which securities are held in each. Online updating of just one portfolio regardless of the number of individual portfolios minimizes connect charges.

The PC/Personal Investor report generator turns out just about any analysis needed. In all, it produces five reports. A quotes report lists the latest price information. A tax report shows realized profit/losses for each portfolio. Another report shows unrealized profit/loss. A description report summarizes present holdings. And a dividend/income report projects the earnings of securities in each portfolio. Any report may be printed as hard copy or sent to the display screen.

The program's documentation has been completely rewritten, but I still don't like it. Information is clear enough, but it is poorly organized. One minute you're reading specific instructions on using the program; then, without warning, you're reading a section on the basics of investing. Then, back again to program instruction. These jumps occur at several points in the manual, and I feel program instruction and general investment information ought to be clearly segregated into different sections.

Like most investment software, PC/Personal Investor is oriented toward individuals who want a lot of statistical data on securities being held or followed. For such people, the program and the time necessary to keep records current certainly will be worthwhile.

William J. Lynott is president of W.J. Lynott Associates, a management consulting firm in suburban Philadelphia. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,420.

Trademarks: Dow Jones News/Retrieval (Dow Jones & Co. Inc.); IBM, IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); MS-DOS (Microsoft Inc.); Okidata Microline (Okidata Div. of Oki America Inc.); PC/Personal Investor (Best Programs Inc.).

Circle 21 on the Reader Service Form

Turn the Electronic Page for More Reviews

You'll find dozens of new software reviews in *Online Today Electronic Edition*. GO OLT-230 and choose this month's reviews from the main menu.

ONLINE TODAY

Vantex Word:

An Inexpensive Word Processor

Vantex Data Systems
P.O. Box 507
Chatham, NJ 07928
201/635-5686

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and true compatibles.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or higher.
Media: Requires one diskette drive or a diskette drive and a hard disk.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: None.
Other Requirements: Minimum 256K RAM for DOS 2.x or 320K RAM for DOS 3.x.
Optional Items: Any supported printer.
System used for test: 640K IBM PC with one 20 MB hard disk, one 360K double-sided, double-density diskette drive and Juki 6100 printer; running PC-DOS 2.1.
List Price: $55.45

Reviewed by James Moran

Word processing on microcomputers has come a long way in the last 10 years. As users became more sophisticated, so did the software. Unfortunately, advanced word processors came with a feature that most users didn't want, namely a high price tag. Now the market is changing, and feature-rich software doesn't have to make the buyer cash poor.

Vantex Word is a serious word processor that works on an IBM-compatible personal computer, but buyers won't need to negotiate a second mortgage to acquire it. It seems to handle most personal and professional writing chores, and it comes with a built-in spelling checker.

Installation is easy. Users without a hard disk should make a working copy on diskettes. Those with a hard disk need only copy the two distribution diskettes to any appropriate directory. After that, the software must be customized to a specific printer, but standard files for most printers are included to let most users install a printer in less than a minute.

Vantex will run on stripped-down computers having only a single diskette drive, but using the spelling checker then requires disk swapping. Users with 256K machines will have to remove all memory-resident programs. Vantex requires more than 230K to operate, and that leaves just enough room for the operating system in a 256K machine.

Using Vantex Word is surprisingly simple, in part because users may change the editor's defaults. There are 31 user-changeable items in the editor, ranging from margin settings to how ASCII files are terminated for export. Even the keyboard may be redefined to match keystrokes users are familiar with from another word processor.

The program is document based, and document size is limited only by available disk space. When editing, documents are automatically backed up when the original file is loaded. Timed backups also are provided, and a command key to save the onscreen text at any time is provided. Movement through a document is easy, and command keys control movement to document top and bottom, page top and bottom and various other positions within the document. Movement through a paginated document can be made to any designated page.

Formatting for onscreen editing or printing is extensive and allows varying document margins and page lengths. Maximum line length is 255 characters, and minimum screen line length is 40 characters. Unfortunately, all formatting options are not directly visible on the screen. However, Vantex will highlight items such as underlines and subscripts. It did properly handle all print formatting commands I could throw at it, including multiple-format commands that underlined and boldfaced the text.

For anyone but the most demanding professional writers, Vantex is an excellent word processor. It does have some minor faults such as requiring misspelled words to be keyed in directly rather than being retrieved from a list of suggested spellings. Also, its status screen seems incomplete because line, column and page counters are not displayed. But these shortcomings must be weighed against its capabilities and price. Perhaps most important, the software seems trash-proof. It refused to lose files even when there was insufficient disk space to save a document because it verifies available disk space before attempting a save operation.

Vantex Word is a complete word processor. Processing speed is acceptable, even quick. Its features aren't as complete as WordStar, and it has nowhere near the capabilities of WordPerfect, but it is still a lot of software for the dollar and could be all the word processor most people ever need.

James Moran is a free-lance writer and frequent contributor to Online Today. *His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,2253.*

Trademarks: IBM, IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); Juki 6100 (Tokyo Juki Industrial Co. Ltd.); MS-DOS (Microsoft Corp.); Vantex Word (Vantex Data Systems); WordPerfect (SSI Software); WordStar (MicroPro International Corp.).

Circle 22 on the Reader Service Form

Electronic Edition Software Reviews

The following reviews are available this month on *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-230 at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

Impact! Graphics And Slide Shows
Manufacturer: *Aegis Development*
Computer: *Commodore Amiga.*

MaxiComm Communications
Manufacturer: *MaxiCorp*
Computer: *Commodore Amiga.*

Reflex Macintosh Database
Manufacturer: *Borland International*
Computers: *Apple Macintosh, Macintosh XL or Lisa.*

Business Analyst ROM
Manufacturer: *Portable Computer Support Group, Inc.*
Computer: *Tandy Model 100*

Interactive Command Line Editor
Manufacturer: *Accounting Information Systems Enterprises*
Computers: *Radio Shack Model 4, 4p and 4D.*

Drafix 1 High-Performance Computer Aided Design
Manufacturer: *Foresight Resources Corp.*
Computers: *IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.*

Brown Bag Word Processor
Manufacturer: *Brown Bag Software*
Computers: *IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT, PCjr. and compatibles.*

Homebase 2.0 Desktop Organizer
Manufacturer: *Brown Bag Software*
Computers: *IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.*

ShortCut DOS Shell And File Manager
Manufacturer: *Mossy Rock Systems*
Computers: *IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.*

MACE+ Utilities
Manufacturer: *Paul Mace*
Computers: *IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.*

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The Local Network Handbook Edition II

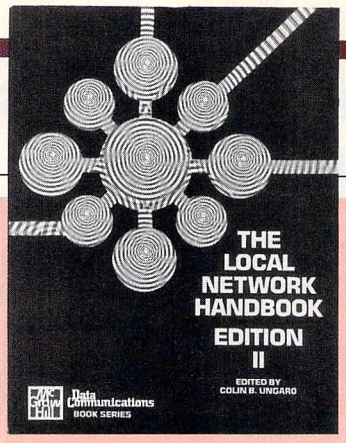
Edited by Colin B. Ungaro
McGraw-Hill, 1986
389 pages, $30.95 (softcover)
Reviewed by Harry Green

The Local Network Handbook Edition II is a collection of articles about LANs from *Data Communications* magazine. Since this is a collection of 58 articles by more than 70 different authors, it can't be judged on the same basis as a conventional book.

Anyone familiar with *Data Communications* magazine will know the content varies from moderately complex to highly technical, so don't expect a book for beginners. Although a few of the articles don't require previous knowledge, the majority are intended for those who understand LANs and data communications in detail.

If you've read the first edition, you'll find only a few articles duplicated in this book. The lack of repetition isn't surprising because the half life of LAN technology is only a year or two.

This isn't a book you'll want to read from front to back. Although the articles are classified into six sections—technology, network design, implementation, planning and management, software, and applications—there is little cohesiveness about the book. Each article is written for a limited purpose and with a particular point of view. Rarely will any reader be interested enough in LAN technology to read all of them.



Examining LAN technology: *Ungaro*

The reprint method of producing a book has a couple of advantages and several drawbacks. The primary advantage is the wide variety of information you get without the need to research back issues, which may be hard to find in a technical magazine such as this. For the publisher, this is a fast way to put a book on the market, and it is particularly advantageous when the market is hot, as is the case with LANs.

From a reader's point of view, the disadvantages outweigh the advantages. First, there is the lack of a cohesive theme. If you want to learn about a specific technology, such as the new IBM token ring network, there is an excellent chance you won't find it in this book. As it happens, there are two articles on the token ring, but neither will satisfy most readers. *Data Communications* had an excellent series on the token ring earlier in 1986, but these were apparently too late for the handbook, in which the latest article is dated January 1986.

Other drawbacks are structural. *Data Communications* magazine uses color liberally in its charts and figures. This book is in black and white, and many figures lose legibility, depending on the original background color. Another problem is a lack of cross references. Some articles refer to other articles that either aren't in the handbook or are difficult to locate.

Despite the drawbacks, this book contains valuable information about LANs. *Data Communications* is the premier periodical covering such subjects and is a magazine of authoritative content edited by professionals. If you need a potpourri of LAN information and don't have access to the last five years of *Data Communications* magazine, this book is recommended as a convenient source.

Harry Green is a free-lance writer from Portland, Ore. He writes about telecommunications, office automation and personal computer-related topics. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,431.

High-Tech Espionage

By Jay Tuck
St. Martin's Press, 1986
211 pages, $14.95 (hardcover)
Reviewed by James Moran

High-Tech Espionage begins with an incident that took place in the summer of 1982: Almost half a million dollars worth of restricted computers made by Digital Equipment Corp. had been confiscated at two German airports. US agents cooperating with German officials intercepted the high-tech computers as they were about to be shipped to the Soviet Union.

This incident got Jay Tuck, an American working on the foreign desk of a German television network, interested in the people who deal in electronic contraband. "Operation Exodus" began what Tuck described as four days of the most exciting investigative research of his career.

After the DEC confiscation, Tuck continued his investigations and learned that the illegal export of US technology was a serious problem, and that it involved more than shady characters looking for a quick way to make money. According to Tuck, the illegal export of Western technology is choreographed by the Central Committee of the Soviet Union. From scientific attachés to trade union representatives, Soviet agents are involved in surreptitious transfers of advanced Western technology.

According to the figures in this book, the Soviets and their Eastern bloc associates have had stunning success in stealing US and European products and techniques. It is claimed that more than 160 Eastern weapons systems directly rely on technology obtained from the West. American mainframe computers are used to coordinate Eastern bloc troop movements while Western microchips ensure the accuracy of enemy air-to-air missiles in the Near East. When the Soviets rolled into Afghanistan they did so with trucks designed in the West. When they shot down a Korean airliner, it was tracked with radar systems stolen from the United States.

High-Tech Espionage is a collection of vignettes that may be a bit too dramatic to be called journalism. The writing is crisp, and Jay Tuck certainly knows how to hold the reader's interest. With the exception of some incorrectly specified computer nomenclature, the facts in the book seem accurate. Those interested in corroborating data will find the source notes at the end of each chapter useful. Don't let the scholarly look fool you, though, *High-Tech Espionage* is a good spy story.

James Moran is a free-lance writer and frequent contributor to Online Today. *His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,2253.*

The Art of Desktop Publishing

By Tony Bove, Cheryl Rhodes and Wes Thomas
Bantam Computer Books, 1986
296 pages, $18.95 (softcover)
Reviewed by Cheryl Peterson

The Art of Desktop Publishing is a perfect example of a book written by knowledgeable computer users who know how to address a topic and make it interesting to anyone who reads it.

The three authors have taken a subject that could be overwhelming to the average computer user and broken it down into bite-sized chunks. At the same time, they have comprehensively dealt with most of the products being used in desktop publishing.

Before teaching the "hows" of desktop publishing, the authors define it and demonstrate its usefulness. The book's introduction is interesting because the authors tell how they used desktop publishing to create a book on the subject.

From the beginning, they establish the differences and similarities between word processing and desktop composition. They never advocate abandoning old methods of text editing. Rather, they suggest using familiar methods and then transporting the formatted text into whatever publishing system you choose to use.

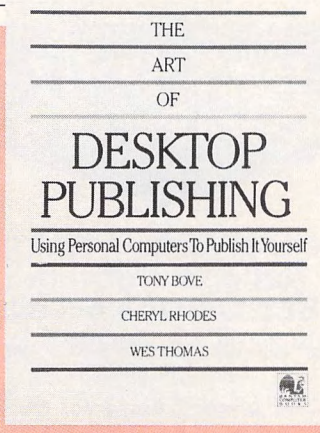
The authors deal with systems that depend on both IBM compatible and Macintosh computers, focusing equal time on "what you see is what you get" and on the more traditional typesetting forms of publishing.

Of course, handling text is the easiest part. Generating and reproducing graphics on the same page with text is the wonder of desktop publishing, and this is also what makes it most difficult to implement.

The software and page makeup sections go into the specifics of desktop publishing: text generation, graphics manipulation and page composition. Sections on printers, digitizers and copy readers illuminate some of the more common hardware considerations. Advances in laser printer technology are beginning to rival the graphic definition possible with dedicated photo-typesetters, but the dot resolution still has a way to go. The authors point out that with a Macintosh and certain software, the user can drive a high-quality typesetter to get maximum resolution of the text.

The book also takes a look at future developments that could revolutionize an already revolutionary concept. From electronic publishing via an online network to publishing on CD-ROM disks, the authors see a great future for this medium.

The authors make no assumptions about who might want to do desktop publishing. Instead they show how almost anyone can benefit from the new technology. Anyone interested in self-publishing should read this book.



Learning the basics: *Desktop publishing*

Cheryl Peterson, a free-lance writer from Miami Beach, writes reviews for several computer magazines. Her CompuServe User ID number is 72366.2645.

The Power of: Running PC-DOS

By Carl Siechert and Chris Wood
Management Information Source, 1986
386 pages, $22.95 (softcover)

Reviewed by Harry Green

A friend once told me that he avoided a certain popular word processor because the number of books explaining how to use it proved to him that the program was too difficult. If there is truth to his contention, you could conclude the same thing about PC-DOS because this one operating system has spawned dozens of explanatory volumes.

Is there anything about DOS that hasn't already been written? I think not, but there is always a different and perhaps a better way of putting the message across. Siechert and Wood have taken an approach that is lucid, if not unique.

Parts of the book are merely a rehash of information that has been published in many other books. If you have only the DOS manual that came with your computer, you'll find the first few chapters are an improvement over the original, which somehow manages to be simultaneously terse and verbose.

I like to test DOS books on a few favorite commands such as PATH, which most books manage to obscure, and BACKUP, which has so many parameters that I never get it right without looking it up. This book does a decent job on the narrative, but the figure illustrating PATH makes you dizzy to look at it. It goes a step further than the DOS manual in explaining the meaning of the cryptic messages DOS sometimes emits. For clarity, I'll cast my vote for *Running PC DOS* compared to the IBM manual.

Half of the book is a chapter describing every DOS command. Commands are listed alphabetically, which I feel is a shortcoming of both this book and the IBM manual. Alphabetical order is fine if you're familiar with DOS and want to check command syntax, but for people learning DOS it is more logical to group commands functionally. Some users will never use some commands, so setting these in a section that is easily skipped makes for more efficient learning.

The unique aspect of this book is its extensive coverage of batch files. One chapter explains the purpose of batch files and how they work, and the final section demonstrates many practical applications. Coding is supplied for useful batch programs for managing disks, directories, and personal productivity aids such as a telephone directory and note pad.

Nearly every PC user needs a book on DOS, and it may as well be this one. *Running PC DOS* does not stand out in a sea of competitors, but it is competently written and is a worthy choice if you have only the DOS manual to guide you.

Harry Green is president of Pacific Netcom Inc., a Portland, Ore., firm that consults with businesses on using office automation and telecommunications to improve productivity. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,431.

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ONLINE TODAY

Silicon Visions: The Future of Microcomputer Technology

By Dan Shafer, The Waite Group
Brady Books, 1986
313 pages, $18.95 (hardcover)
Reviewed by Michael Naver

Silicon Visions tells this story: A woman goes into a restaurant and orders a steak. After an hour, the steak arrives, overdone; the potatoes undercooked. Angry, the woman leaves without paying. Question: Did she eat the steak?

Of course not, we reply. Even though the story does not explicitly say so, our human experience and intuition tell us that she wouldn't eat that awful steak.

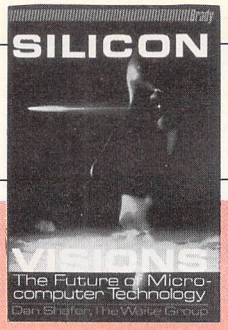
Now put that question to a computer operating under a so-called "expert system" or "artificial intelligence." The probable answer to the question: "Fatal Error —lack of sufficient data."

The authors cheerfully cite the restaurant story as one of the "barriers" to development of meaningful expert systems. Yet the premise of *Silicon Visions* is that this innovation and much more technological gee-whiz will be upon us in the next five years.

How long before we face computer music and art, keyboards made obsolete by voice commands, an electronic morning paper to read, robots doing our housework? Enough wizards are tinkering in their kitchens and in the workrooms of well-financed software giants to convince us that, even now, the technology is about to arrive. Yet, anyone who has used a computer in business will tell the authors that it is all beside the point.

What good is artificial intelligence if a computer isn't smart enough to read a disk formatted under another system? Why try voice commands to tell a computer what to do if the manual's instructions are so dense that you conclude that a Japanese robot wrote it? How can we expect to use telecommunications to send pictures and encyclopedias over phone lines when we have to labor for hours or days figuring out how to get a simple handshake between two computers?

Silicon Visions shows us a future full of such ingenious innovations as video phones and computer art. But there is not much in the book for today's serious business computer user.



Visualizing the future: *Shafer*

For instance, in the introduction the authors promise that "the most important and fundamental changes in the microcomputer industry in the next few years will focus on making computers more human and humane. By 'human,' we mean more usable and understandable.... In other words, a great leap beyond 'user-friendly.'"

Forgetting "user-friendly," a term deserving of consignment to a time capsule, the most "humane" service the computer industry could perform for the nation's 30 million computer users and the added millions about to join their ranks is to standardize what is out there now: require every computer labeled MS-DOS to run all software written for every other machine so labeled — and, while they're at it, for Apple and Commodore, too. Require all computers, modems and terminal software to establish the same communications parameters for data exchange. Forbid the programmers who wrote the software to write the manuals.

Michael Naver of Baltimore, Md., is editor of Hi-Tech Alert for the Professional Communicator, *a newsletter advising professional communicators on uses of new technology. His CompuServe ID number is 70007,621.*

Electronic Edition Book Reviews

The following book reviews are available this month in *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-240 at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

dBASE III: A Practical Guide for Professional and Business Users, *by M. De Pace, Van Nostrand Reinhold.*

Mastering Serial Communications, *by Peter W. Gofton, Sybex.*

The Networking Book: People Connecting with People, *by Jessica Lipnack and Jeffrey Stamps, Routledge & Kegan Paul.*

The Macintosh Office, *by Keith Thompson, Ashton-Tate.*

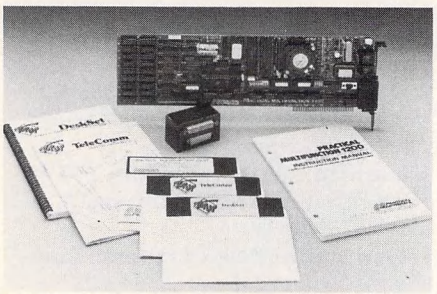
LISP: The Language of Artificial Intelligence, *by A.A. Berk, Van Nostrand Reinhold.*

All-Speed Modem

Fastcomm Data Corp. has introduced an "All Speeds in One Modem" for micro, mini and mainframe computer users.

Selling for $999, the Fastcomm 2496 supports Hayes-compatible speeds of 2400, 1200 and 300 bps and V.29-compatible at 9600 bps. It is error-free at the higher speeds and is available in external, internal and rack-mount models.

For information, contact Fastcomm Data Corp., 12347-E Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston, VA 22091; 703/620-3900.



Practical Multifunction

Practical Peripherals has introduced the Practical Multifunction 1200, the first IBM PC-compatible multifunction expansion card with an on-board modem.

Designed for the Apple and IBM personal computer families, the product sells for $395. It features a 1200/300 bps modem with auto-dial/auto-answer capabilities, capacity for up to 512K expansion RAM, print spooler capabilities, two serial ports, a parallel port and a clock/calendar with back-up battery.

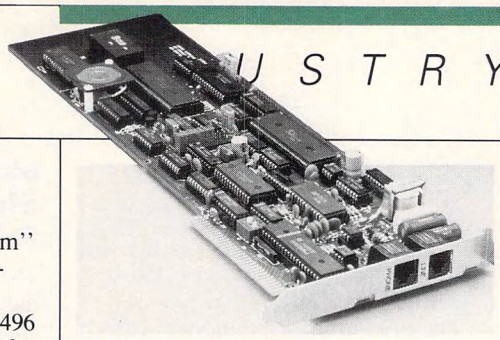
For information, contact Practical Peripherals, 31245 La Baya Dr., Westlake Village, CA 91362; 818/991-8200.

Smartmodem

The Smartmodem 1200C from Hayes Microcomputer Products is an asynchronous, 1200 bps internal board modem for the IBM PC Convertible.

The modem features call-progress monitoring, 16 key DTMF dialing, two RJ-11 modular telco connectors, automatic and manual answer and built-in test and diagnostic modes. Retail price is $439. Smartcom II communications software also is available and sells for $149.

Hayes Microcomputer Products Inc., P.O. Box 105203, Atlanta, GA 30348, 404/449-8791.

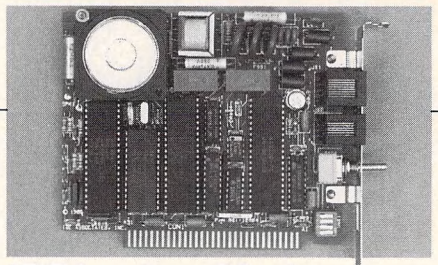


Lightning Modem for the IBM PC

Anchor Automation has introduced the Lightning f/i full card internal modem for the IBM PC and compatible computers.

The 2400 bps modem is a plug-in card that uses the industry standard MNP Error Correcting system, providing virtually error-free communications. Selling for $599, Lightning f/i comes with Lync Telecommunications software.

For information, contact Anchor Automation Inc., 6913 Valjean Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406; 818/997-6493.



IDEAcomm Modem

IDEAssociates has introduced the IDEAcomm 1200S, an asynchronous modem designed to fit any short slot in the IBM PC, PC-XT and PC-AT.

Selling for $395, the half-card modem comes complete with IDEAcomm 1200 communications software. It is fully Hayes compatible and provides 300 and 1200 baud transmission and terminal emulation. To ensure data accuracy during file transfer, the modem's software supports XMODEM and Kermit protocols as error-checking standards.

For information, contact IDEAssociates Inc., 29 Dunham Rd., Billerica, MA 01821; 617/663-6878.

Zoom Modem

Zoom Modem PC 2400 from Zoom Telephonics Inc. is a 2400-baud modem that comes bundled with Crosstalk XVI.

Features include superior call-progress tone detection, Demon Dialing of busy numbers, audio input and output ports, support for four COM ports and a high-speed 16450 UART for assured compatibility with high-speed AT compatibles. Retail price is $499. Zoom Modem 1200 PC models can be upgraded for $249.

For information, contact Zoom Telephonics Inc., 207 South St., Boston, MA 02111; 617/423-1072 or 800/631-3116.

A-Talk Communications for Commodore Amiga

A-Talk from Felsina Software is an advanced communication and terminal program for the Commodore Amiga computer.

The program includes integrated communication tools that work together to help the user collect, control and transmit data with the Amiga. Featured are Kermit, XMODEM/Checksum—XMODEM/CRC, a powerful script language for automatic log-on, multitasking spooler and capture, and full support of more than 10 modem types with auto-dial, auto-redial, auto-answer and hang up. Retail price is $49.95.

For information, contact Felsina Software, 3175 S. Hoover St., Suite #275, Los Angeles, CA 90007; 213/747-8498.

Telecom Printers

Advanced Communications Inc. has introduced a new line of Receive Only telecommunications printers. Both models contain integral 300/1200 baud modems and are designed for the unattended reception of time-critical messages and price changes.

The MP-2000B printer is ideal for the unattended reception of electronic mail and prints in a 20 column format using thermal calculator paper. The MP-8000 telecommunications printer receives unattended electronic mail, producing 80 or 132 column text on standard tractor feed paper. Other applications for this model include price change notification, order and shipment confirmation, and more.

For information, contact Advanced Communications Inc., 462 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale, CA 94086; 800/325-6484 (nationwide) or 800/773-8585 (in California).

SpeedTerm 128

SpeedTerm 128 from Abacus Software is a command driven terminal software package for the Commodore 128.

Specifically designed for use with online database services, such as CompuServe, the program supports most of the modems available for the C-128. In addition to the standard options found in other terminal programs, SpeedTerm performs VT52 terminal emulation, supports both XMODEM and Punter file transfer protocols, manages a large 45K buffer and permits user defined function keys. Selling for $39.95, the program understands more than 30 powerful commands.

For information, contact Abacus Software, 2201 Kalamazoo S.E., P.O. Box 7211, Grand Rapids, MI 49510; 616/241-5510.

Express MouseTalk

United Software Industries has introduced ASCII Express MouseTalk, a high-powered mouse-based telecommunications software package for the Apple GS, IIe and IIc.

MouseTalk uses the Mac-like user interface featuring a mouse-driven operating environment with pull-down windows that provide leading edge technology for a retail price of $149.95. Other features include a built-in visual text editor, a sophisticated macro system that frees less experienced users from understanding the intricacies of the command set, terminal emulation and accommodation of data transfer speeds up to 19,200 bps. It is compatible with all popular external modems.

For information, contact United Software Technologies, 8399 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Suite 200, Canoga Park, CA 91304; 818/887-5800.

Epson Laser Printer

Epson America Inc. has made its debut into the laser printer market with the GQ-3500, a compact, easy-to-use model that sells for $2,495.

The printer comes equipped with 640K of memory to handle the full range of text and graphics functions needed by corporate and small business users. It features a warm-up time of 45 seconds and first page printing time of between 22 and 25 seconds with an overall speed of six pages per minute. Engine life is rated at 180,000 pages.

For information, contact Epson America Inc., 2780 Lomita Blvd., Torrance, CA 90505; 800/421-5426 (nationwide) or 213/539-9140 (in California).

Wang LapTop

Wang Laboratories Inc. has introduced the Wang LapTop Computer, a 14.25-pound unit priced at $3,530.

Standard features include a quality, full-sized LCD, supertwist screen, built-in 10MB hard-disk storage, a full-sized keyboard, built-in communications and printer and seamless IBM/Wang compatibility using the MS-DOS 3.2 operating system. Two internal modems, one offering up to 1200 bps and the other up to 2400 bps, are available from Wang.

For information, contact Wang Laboratories Inc., One Industrial Ave., Lowell, MA 01851; 617/459-5000.

High-Speed Modems

Microcom Inc. has introduced a new line of PC card modems that feature error-free communications through the Microcom Networking Protocol.

The top of the line is the PC/9624c, which at 19,200 bps is the fastest asynchronous internal modem available for the IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles. The PC 2400c is capable of 5000 bps over a 2400 bps asynchronous link. The PC 2400 can provide throughput of up to 2900 bps over a 2400 bps connection when communicating with another MNP Class 4 modem. Prices range from $699 to $1,749.

For information, contact Microcom Inc., 1400 Providence Highway, Norwood, MA 02062; 617/762-9310 or 800/822-8224.

Electronic Edition Product Announcements

The following new product announcements are available this month in *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-250 at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

Windows Clip Art Collection (Version 1.1), *art-quality images for the IBM PC and compatibles, Micrografx Inc.*

Memory Minder (Version 2.0), *diagnostic check for disk drive systems, J&M Systems Ltd.*

Black Box Basic Buffer, *Black Box Corp.*

MacEnhancer, *expansion system for Macintosh Plus, SoftStyle Inc.*

Aegis Draw Plus, *computer-aided design package for the Amiga, Aegis Development Inc.*

Filesearch, *searches files for IBM PC hard disk users and programmers, Wishlist Software*

N Series Dot Matrix Printers, *Star Micronics Inc.*

CyberType, *desktop publishing typesetting system for the IBM PC, CyberResearch Inc.*

WordWriter ST, SwiftCalc ST, Data Manager ST, *productivity software programs for the Atari 520 and 1040 ST computers, Timeworks Inc.*

Z-148 Hard Disk Drive Version PC, *Zenith Data Systems.*

Multiple parameters

Continued from page 56

Without the asterisk and the filename, CompuServe will assume you want to log on with your main parameter set as established at the TERMINAL menu.

If you forget the procedure at logon, you can even switch parameter sets after connection by going to the PROgramming area and typing:

```
TER IS LAPTOP
```

Also, once you've activated an alternate set of parameters, if you type GO TERMINAL and take the "View or Change Settings" option, you can see the changes as they appear on your current user record.

Charles Bowen is a contributing editor of Online Today *and co-author of* How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe. *His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,411.*

finger Shopping

CompuServe offers a variety of products that save you time and money whenever you log on. Others that bring online products to a much fuller life. And still others that make being a CompuServe subscriber a more fashionable pastime.

NOTE: Prices for our entire product line have been revised since our last sale. Postage and handling charges, previously included in the price of each item, are now automatically calculated at the end of the ordering procedure. (A table at the back of this section outlines the new shipping and handling prices.)

New National Bulletin Board Users Guide and Reference Card
FOR SALE, WANTED, NOTICE. The National Bulletin Board is a free electronic advertising service for subscribers to the CompuServe Information Service. This manual prepares you to participate. Search listings by keyword. Take advantage of special features that help swiftly pinpoint items of interest.

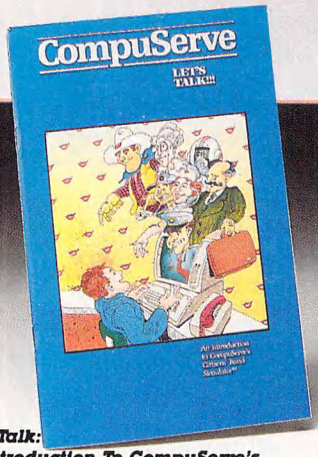
$5.95

New EDIT Guide and Reference Card
Become a more proficient user of the line editor used in many CompuServe products — EasyPlex, Forums, Personal File Area, etc. Compose and edit memos, notes and text quicker and error-free. Comes with a reference card that summarizes commands and their abbreviations.

$5.50

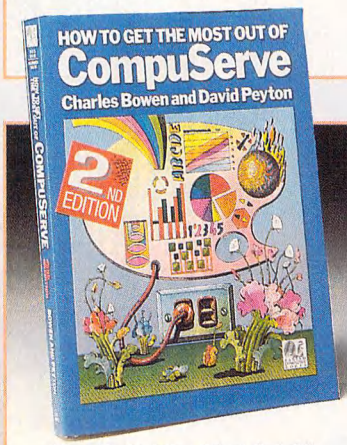
New CompuServe Almanac
There are literally hundreds of offerings on the CompuServe Information Service you may have never visited. Use the CompuServe Almanac to become acquainted with all of them — without visiting them individually online. Its 300+ pages are loaded with helpful features, presenting products in "workbook" style to help you research and recall key destinations by area and page number. It's certain to pay for itself in connect time savings.

Reg. $12.95 **SAVE $5** **$7.95**



Let's Talk:
An Introduction To CompuServe's Citizen's Band Simulator
Although you can teach yourself to *access* CB in a single session, you won't have any idea about the real capacity of CB as a communications utility and modern day party line until you read this primer for computer conversation.

$4.95



How To Get the Most Out Of CompuServe (Second Edition)
by Charles Bowen and David Peyton
The first edition of this book from Bantam earned acclaim from longtime CompuServe users, novices, and even non-subscribers for its step-by-step discussion of CompuServe's leading products. The second edition also includes a $6 CREDIT!

$16.95

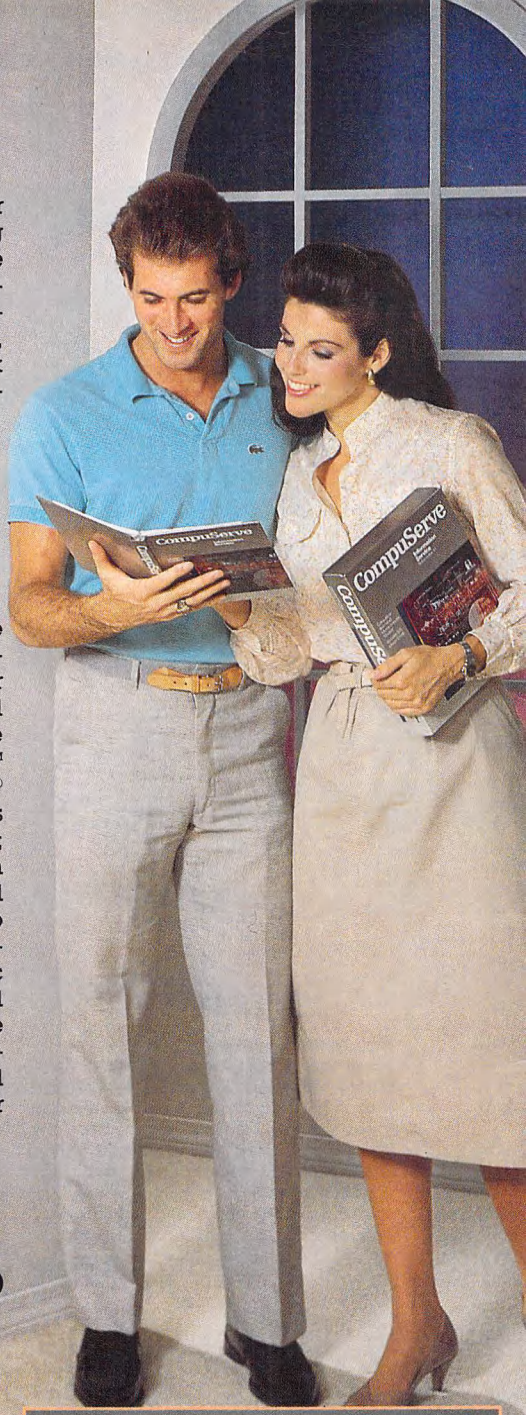
The CompuServe Information Service Subscription Kit
Why not have another User ID number and electronic mailbox for a traveling member of the family or firm? The CompuServe Information Service Subscription Kit includes a 24-page full-color overview of the service offerings, over a dozen Reference Cards, a Quick Reference Word index, a System Configuration Diagram, plus:

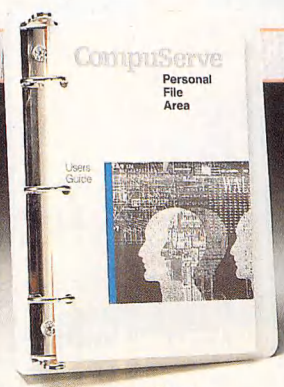
- a $25 introductory usage credit
- a User ID number and password
- a list of Information Service rates and local telephone access numbers
- an introductory subscription to *Online Today* magazine

The Kit includes an **Information Service Users Guide** (also available separately), a spiral-bound, hardcover 200-page guide, highly recommended for subscribers who've come online through the CompuServe IntroPak™ program. The guide covers: EasyPlex® electronic mail; the Executive News Service; the National Bulletin Board; Citizen's Band Simulator; forum message boards, data libraries and conferencing; information transfers to and from your computer; travel services; financial services; electronic shopping; interactive games; and more. When purchased separately the guide also includes: a System Configuration Diagram, an alphabetized Quick Reference Word index, and over a dozen Reference Cards.

Subscription Kit
$39.95

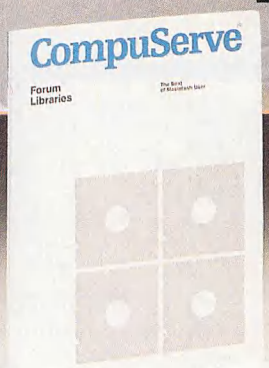
Users Guide
Reg. $14.95
Save $4.00
$10.95





Personal File Area Guide
All subscribers receive 128K of storage in a personal file area. EasyPlex messages, Executive News Service clippings, files, "form" letters and more can be stored for 30 days without charge. File management programs, text editors, disk storage techniques, EasyPlex shortcuts, and more are explained in this guide. Includes: ICS, Terminal Parameter, and EDIT Reference Cards.

Reg. $10.95 **SAVE $3.45** **$7.50**

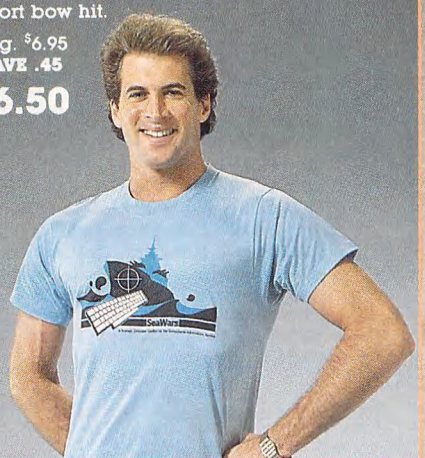


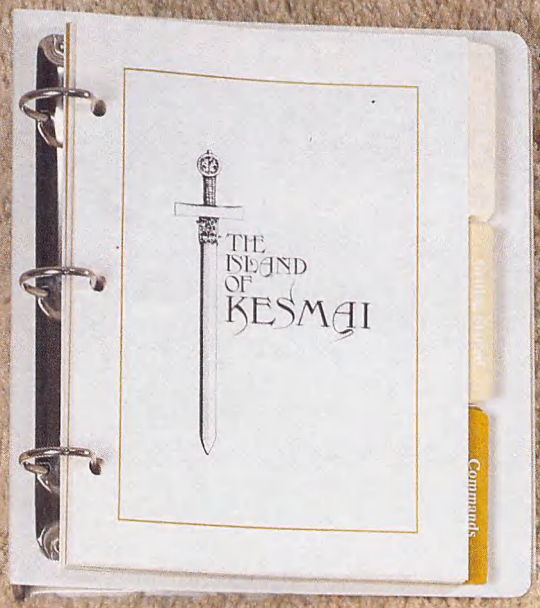
Forum Data Library Directories
These five forum software guides present indexed descriptions of top offerings from leading personal computing Forums. *The Best of IBMNET*, and four similar guides for the *Amiga, Atari 8-Bit, Tandy Model 100* and *Macintosh* Forums catalog literally hundreds of powerful utility programs and stand-alone applications available for public access on CompuServe.

$9.95

SeaWARS Tee-shirt
Now hear this: SeaWARS enlistees will be considered out of uniform without the official SeaWARS tee-shirt. Available appropriately in navy on light blue, the shirt depicts a port bow hit.

Reg. $6.95
SAVE .45
$6.50



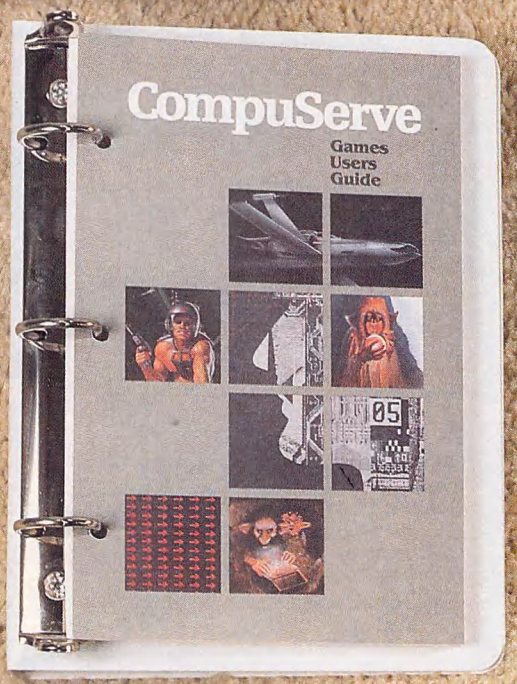


New Island of Kesmai Guide
One of CompuServe's leading adventure games, Island of Kesmai is like no other online island you may have visited. Prepare yourself — with this comprehensive island atlas. Meet the inhabitants. Learn their customs and social mores. You won't just bring the game's interactive features to greater light, you'll lead a longer life in your island role.

Reg. $16.50 **SAVE $1.55** **$14.95**

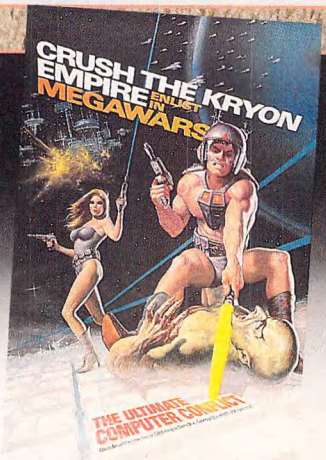
MegaWars I Package
Realistic accessories for the fantasy gamer. This package includes a MegaWars Briefing Guide in a three-ring binder, along with a series of five MegaWars spacecraft blueprints and a galaxy map.

Reg. $16.95 **SAVE $2** **$14.95**



CompuServe Games Guide
CompuServe leads the online computing world in multi-player, adventure, space and war game offerings for microcomputer gamers of all ages and intellects. Play them to meet fascinating characters, negotiate puzzling scenarios, plan elaborate strategies, and more. This survey of the CompuServe game universe offers descriptions of all our game offerings and a section on getting the most out of our Gamers' Forum.

Reg. $14.95 **SAVE $4** **$10.95**



MegaWars Color Poster
Handsome full color MegaWars wall poster depicting an evil Kryon confronting the champions of the Colonist's Empire. Measures 25" x 38".

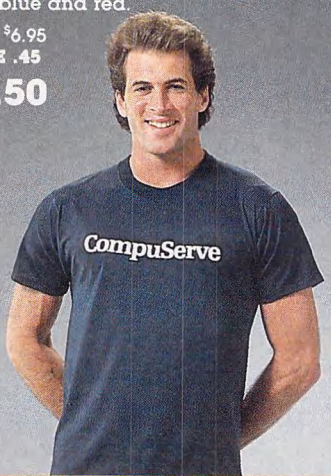
Reg. $4.95 **SAVE $2.45** **$2.50**

BLACKDRAGON Tee-shirt
Cross the Labyrinth, slay the dragon and live? Announce your success with this black tee-shirt with white BlackDragon illustration.

Reg. $6.95
SAVE .45
$6.50

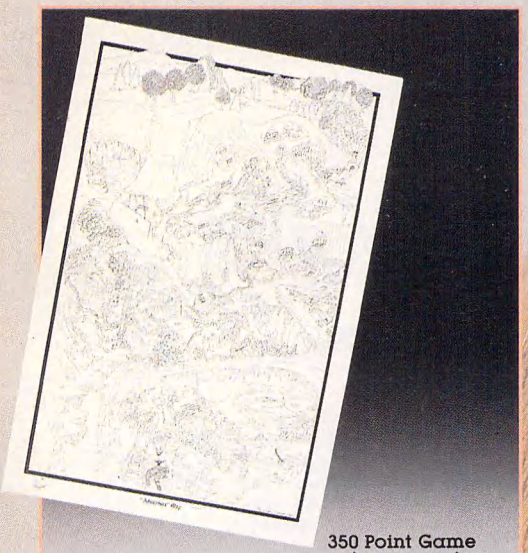
CompuServe Logo Tee-shirt
Announce your online allegiance with this cotton/poly tee-shirt silkscreened with the CompuServe logo. Available in light blue, navy blue and red.

Reg. $6.95
SAVE .45
$6.50



"I've Got A Handle On CompuServe CB"
Tell the world you're a part of the fastest growing interactive communications revolution since the telephone — CB — with this colorful tee-shirt. Available in selected colors listed online.

Reg. $6.95
SAVE .45
$6.50



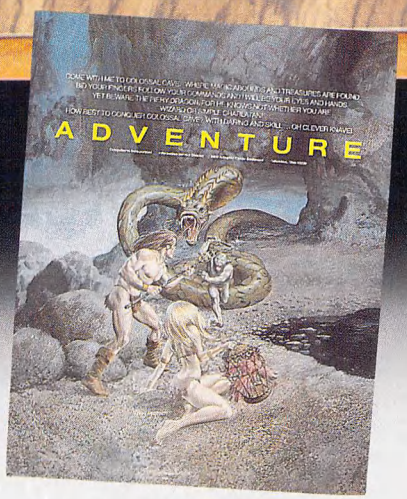
350 Point Game
Reg. $3.95 **SAVE $2.45**
$1.50

Adventure Game Maps
Exciting adventure maps, drawn in outline so participants can color their maps to match their imaginations. Both illustrate pathways and pitfalls one encounters in the Adventure game's Colossal cave. Available for both the 350 and 751 point games.

751 Point Game
Reg. $4.95 **SAVE $3**
$1.95

New CompuServe Digital Desk Clock
Mounted within a clear lucite desk stand for high-visibility, this contemporary timepiece is an attractive and useful addition to any computer workstation — home or office. It prominently displays the CompuServe logo and comes with a calendar in an adjacent window that includes interchangeable monthly templates which can represent any configuration of days in a month.

Reg. $10.95 **SAVE $4.45** **$6.50**



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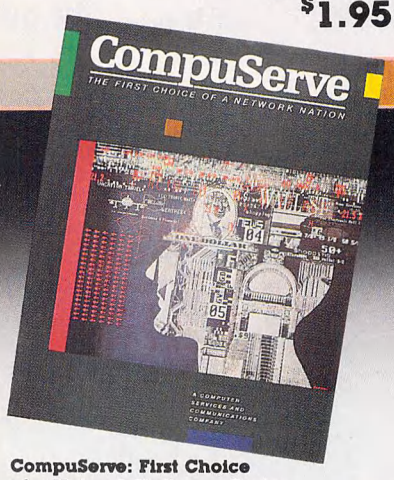

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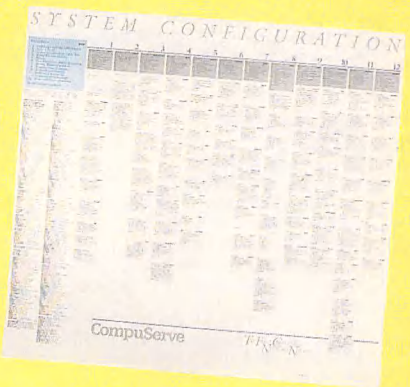

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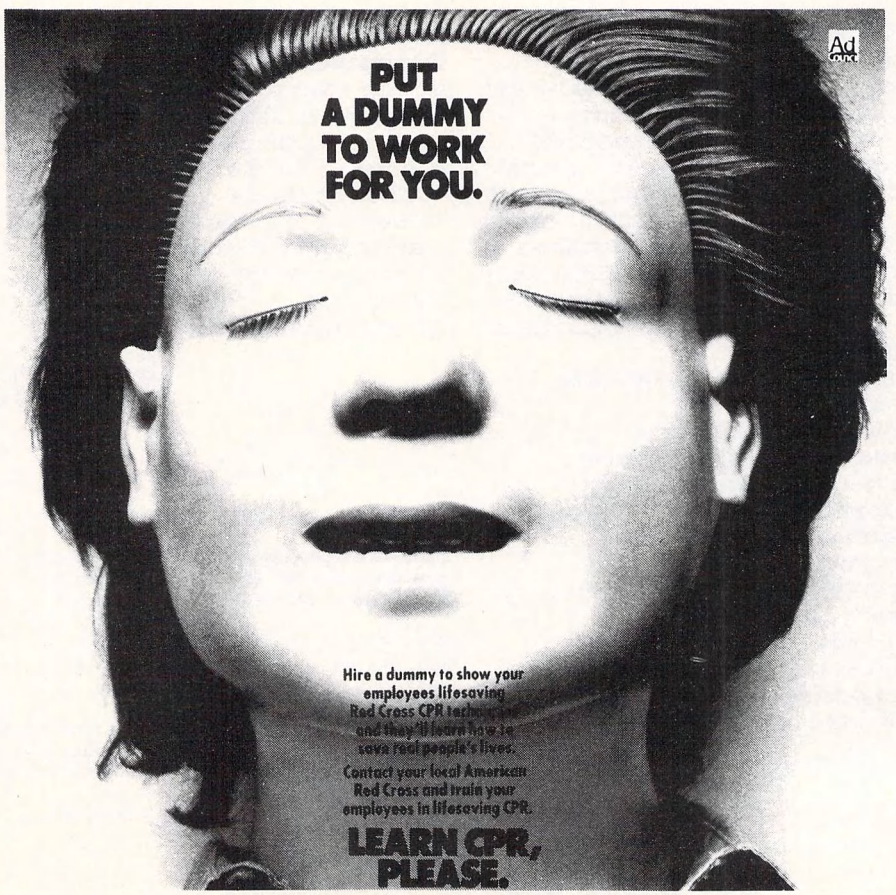
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March issue, not valid after June 1987.

How to Create Multiple Sets of Parameters

I don't have any figures to back it up, but from making my rounds on CompuServe every day, I get the impression that an increasing number of us have more than one computer in our lives these days.

We use this extra computing power in many ways, including lots of telecommunications, whether it's with a spiffy laptop on the road or with our first computer now consigned to the basement.

Often the newest system in the house isn't compatible with the older one—the length of the screen lines are different and they each hold a different number of lines per screen—and using them both on CompuServe with the same User ID number requires adjustments to your online account. In an earlier column, we saw how to use the terminal settings area of the system (GO TERMINAL) and the SET command (SET WID, SET PAGE, etc.) to make temporary and more permanent adjustments to the way CompuServe sends information to you, changing line lengths, screen depths and more.

That column prompted several letters from readers who said, in effect, "Get with it, Bowen—there's a better way!" Their testimonials prompted me to do some independent research and, by golly, they're right!

This month we'll explore how you can create alternative sets of communications parameters and store them online and how, at log-on, you can instruct CompuServe to use a particular alternate set.

Let's suppose you have two computers with which you regularly connect to CompuServe. Your main machine is an IBM PC compatible and you've already used the menu-driven PROFILE area of the system (GO PROFILE) to establish parameters that best serve your 80-column by 25-line screen. However, you also periodically use a laptop machine with a 40-column by 7-line screen and you want to have an alternate set of parameters for it.

We'll do our work from the *programming* area of the system. To get there, type PRO at any prompt. This part of CompuServe—where your prompt becomes a simple "OK"—may be unfamiliar to you. There was a time when subscribers visited the OK neighborhood frequently (usually for creating files in their storage areas). However, nowadays many prefer the menu-drive PER—Personal File Area—for those functions.

Even if the abrupt "OK" prompt is foreign to you, there's no reason to feel uncomfortable in the PRO section, because you can return to the menus of CompuServe at anytime by simply typing R DISPLAY at the OK prompt.

For now, though, we want to stay at the OK prompt for a moment to create a file that will contain our alternate set of communications parameters.

To display the *existing* set (that is, the parameters you're currently using), enter the command TER PAR (for TERminal PARameters), and you'll be shown something like this:

```
Active terminal parameters
RATE = 1200
MODEL = TTY
HORIZONTAL = Real
VERTICAL = Simulated
FORMFEED = Real
PARITY = Zero
Switches:
ALF = Off ALT = Off BCR = Off
BDF = On BSE = Off DBL = Off
FCR = Off FIL = On LCT = Off
NIM = Off SBL = Off SCR = Off
SYN = Off XLF = Off
Delays:
BSD = 0 CRD = 1
FFD = 0 HTD = 0
LFD = 1 MCL = 0
VTD = 0
CASE = Standard
SENDS = Standard
WIDTH = 80
DELETE = Rubout
SPCTAB = 8
PAGSIZ = 0
```

Now, wait a minute. Where did all those variables come from if you've never used this feature before?

The values assigned in your main set of parameters were placed there by the system when you indicated your "terminal type"—either when you signed up as a member or when you last used the TERMINAL menu to make adjustments.

All of the codes can be set "on" or "off" or given a specific numeric value. Most—such as the set of "Delays—frankly are rather esoteric and in most cases can be left unchanged between computers. Others, such as the WIDTH variable, which refers to the width of a screen line, are useful to change.

If you'd like to find out what each variable means, you can type HELP TERMINAL at the OK prompt. This will produce a general explanation and then provide a "Subtopic?" prompt. Then you can enter the variable you're curious about. You also can type "Introduction" at the "Subtopic?" prompt for a further overview.

For instance, if you type the variable WIDTH at the "Subtopic ?" prompt, the system will tell you that the code "sets width of terminal line to *n* characters."

In the example of our existing set of parameters, the WIDTH is "80." In our alternate set, we want to set the WIDTH to "40."

You can look up any of the variables in the example for further explanation. Once you have all the answers you want, press the Return key at the "Subtopic ?" prompt, and you'll come back to the OK prompt.

To change a variable—say, the WIDTH variable—type this at the OK prompt:

```
TER WIDTH 40
```

The system will make the change and again display "OK."

You also might want to change the Page Size (PAGSIZ variable) to 7 for the seven-line screen with the command TER PAGSIZ 7.

Another interesting variable for small-screen systems is the SCR (scroll) code, listed under "switches." If you set SCR to "on" (with the TER SCR ON command), you're telling CompuServe that when it is using this alternate set of parameters, you want any text you retrieve to be scrolled to your specified "page size" (which we just set to seven lines) and then freeze it. After the freeze, you can use CONTROL Q to "unfreeze" the display for the next seven lines. This is handy to avoid text scrolling off the smaller screen before you get a chance to read it.

After you've set all the variables as you want them, you need to save the new file. To do that, type this at the OK prompt:

```
TER DEF name
```

That is, TERminal DEFinition followed by a name. It can be up to six letters, such as TER DEF LAPTOP. The system now will save the alternate parameters in a file called LAPTOP.

You can summon your new alternate parameters at log-on by appending the filename to your User ID number, like this:

```
70007,411*LAPTOP
```

Note the asterisk (*) between the User ID number and the filename.

Continued on page 48

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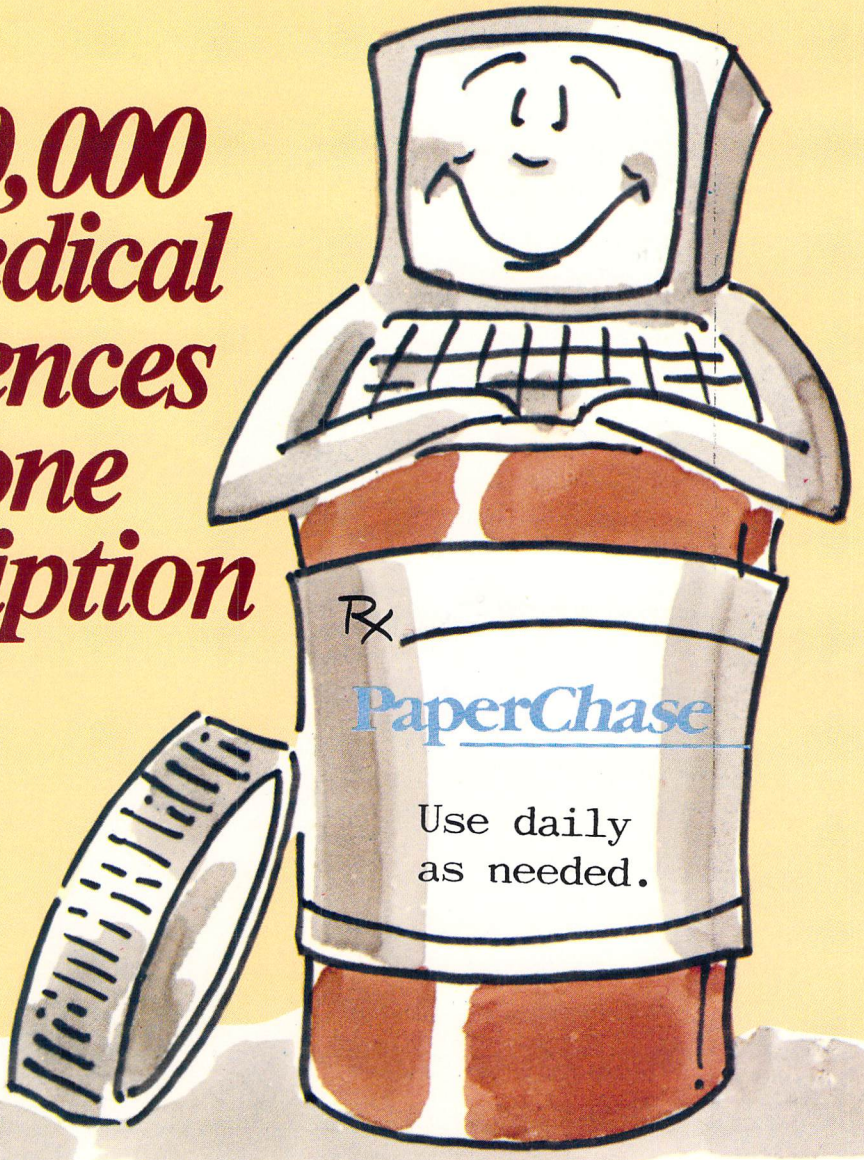

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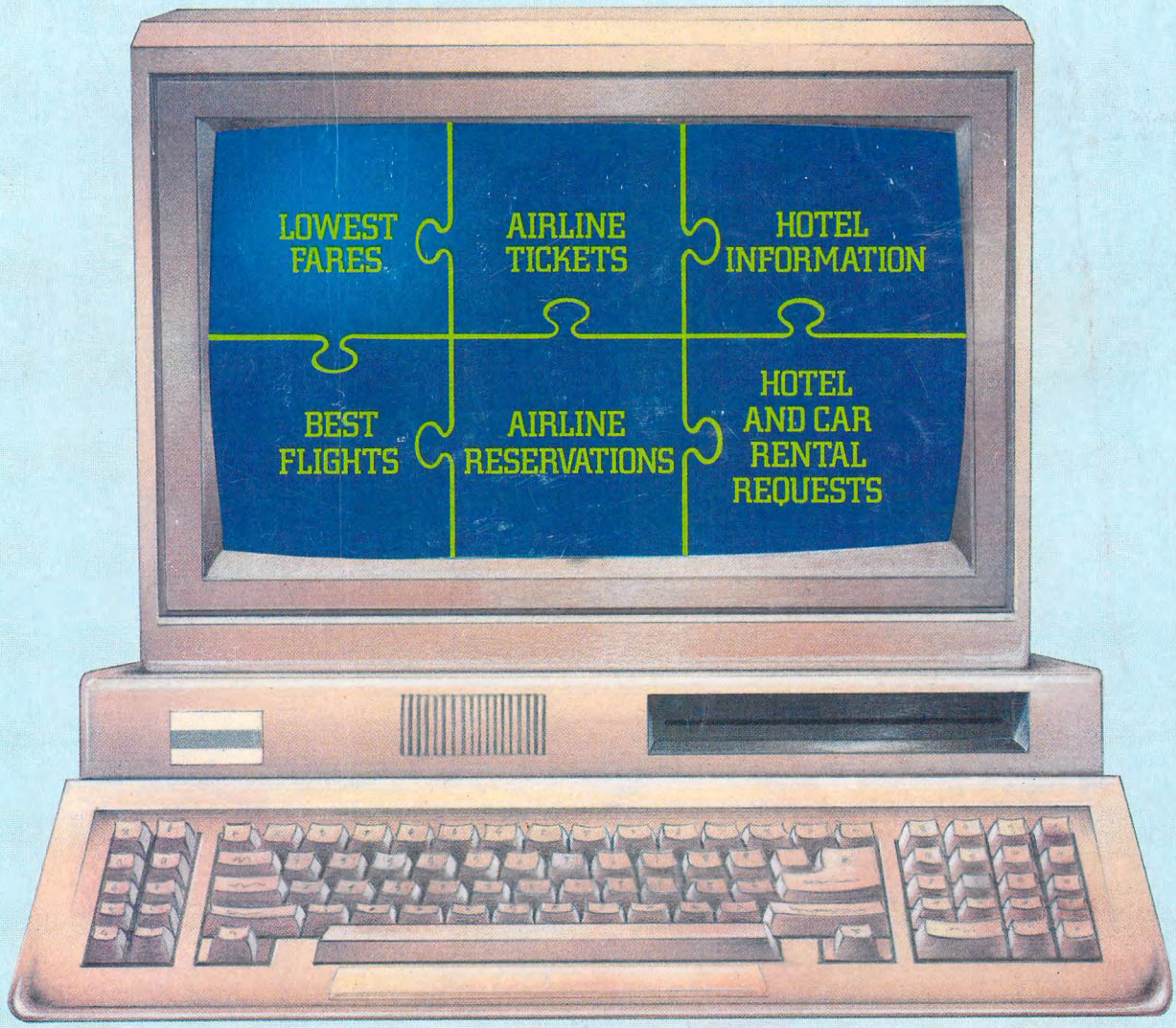

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